

TV weekend

Channel 3 serves up Tilley, Evert at Slims

by **Bernard Fernandez***Daily News Sports Writer*

Channel 3 weekend sports anchor Lou Tilley expects to be nervous when he joins tennis legend Chris Evert to call the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tournament this weekend from Pennsylvania Convention Center, and not just because his background in the sport is limited.

"Wouldn't you be nervous," Tilley said, "if you were going to work with America's Sweetheart? I'm like everybody else. That's the way I thought of her. I mean, she always looked so great on the tennis court."

As play-by-play announcer, Tilley will try to set up Evert as often as possible during a semifinal match tomorrow (PRISM, 1:30 p.m.) and the championship match Sunday (Channel 3, 4:30 p.m., tape-delay).

"My approach is minimalist, but that's the same way I called football games," Tilley said. "Certainly with Chris Evert sitting next to me, my job is to be a traffic cop for her, leading her into commentary that I — if I were at home, watching — would be most interested in hearing from someone who is so obviously an expert."

Evert arrived today and Tilley said he plans to spend some time with her "to get a feel for how each other works."

"We might do a phony broadcast for a set or two, to help us get ready for the real thing," he said.

Channel 3's Slims coverage Sunday — delayed to accommodate the Eagles-Browns game on 3 — means NBC's final-round coverage of the World Series of Golf will be pre-empted.

WARMING UP TO WINTER

With the slightest hint of a chill in the air, CBS gets an early jump on winter.

November being a "sweeps" month also might have something to do with CBS's decision to fill tomorrow's sports lineup with the sort of cold-weather fare that yielded huge ratings during last February's Lillehammer Olympics.

"Eye on Sports" (Channel 10, 4:30 p.m.) will warm viewers up, so to speak, with taped highlights



Lou Tilley: nervous

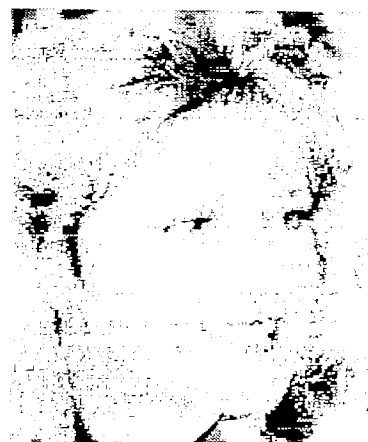
of the Subaru Return of Champions skiing competition from Beaver Creek, Colo. American Olympic medalists Tommy Moe and Picabo Street are among the competitors.

But the biggest ratings grabbers are on display in prime time (Channel 10, 9 p.m.) in "Ice Wars: USA vs. the World," from Providence, R.I. An American team composed of Nancy Kerrigan, Kristi Yamaguchi, Brian Boitano and Paul Wylie show off their best moves against a foreign contingent of Oksana Baiul, Katarina Witt, Viktor Petrenko and Kurt Browning. Team USA leads after winning Wednesday night's technical program.

Verne Lundquist, part of CBS's figure-skating announcing team at Lillehammer, is still rather a new hand at the sport, having called it only since 1990. But he said he has come to realize the athleticism required to compete at the world level.

"Scott Hamilton [a former Olympic gold medalist who will do color commentary] has always tried to present it as an athletic competition and not as a theatrical entertainment," Lundquist said.

"One of the technical pieces we did from Lillehammer was the technique involved in the most difficult jump in the sport, the triple axel. You take off forward, do 3½ revolutions and land backward. Scott, who narrated the piece, compared it to a basketball player taking off at the free throw



Chris Evert: tennis analyst

line, spinning around 3½ times and dunking."

SAMPLE ON THE AIR

Former New York Jets defensive back Johnny Sample, now a sports commentator for WHAT-AM, finally will make a guest appearance on "G. Cobb Live" this week. The show, which tapes Tuesdays, airs Thursdays at 10:30 a.m., 5 p.m. and 2 a.m. on SportsChannel Philadelphia.

Host Garry Cobb, the former Eagles linebacker and WIP-AM talker, had lined up Sample as a guest for last week's show until a sponsor, a local sporting-goods company, got wind of it and voiced its objection. Seems Sample and the sponsor have a bit of an unhappy history.

"I was kind of in the dark about it," Cobb said. "The two sides are not fond of each other, put it that way."

Sample gets on this week, Cobb said, because the sporting-goods company is not sponsoring this particular segment.

TUBE TALK

■ "Inside the Eagles," a weekly half-hour behind-the-scenes look at our town's NFL team, premiered last night with Howard Eskin, Mike Missanelli, Dave Spadaro and Eagles defensive end Greg Townsend sharing host duties.

■ ESPN "SportsCenter" anchor Chris Myers will replace Roy Firestone as host of "Up Close," the network's interview program, beginning in January. ■

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Sports

**Sabatini's win is
her own double fault**

Page 47

Slims play a yawner

by **Bill Fleischman**

Daily News Sports Writer

The quarterfinals of a pro tennis tournament should produce exhilarating shotmaking.

In one-week tournaments, lower-ranked players occasionally get easy draws, slide through to the quarters and then get trounced.

But frequently during quarterfinals, pleased spectators should be lifted out of their seats cheering shots only the best can make.

Yesterday's quarterfinals of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia were, to put it kindly, lackluster.

Four seeded players advanced to today's semifinals in one-sided matches at the Convention Center. No. 4 Gabriela Sabatini will face No. 6 Anke Huber at 2 p.m. No. 2 Mary Pierce will meet No. 5 Natalia Zvereva at 7 p.m.

Last night's Sabatini-Chanda Rubin match was typical of the uninspiring quarterfinals.

Sabatini's serve has always been her major flaw. Early in the tournament, her serve had more velocity than usual, but she still committed too many double faults. Last night, Sabatini double-faulted 13 times compared with four by Rubin. Sabatini still won, 6-3, 6-0.

During the first set, Sabatini served like a weekend player, double-faulting eight times. But the 26th-ranked Rubin, a promising young American, continually made unforced errors. For the match, Rubin had 35 enforced errors and Sabatini had 20.

Rubin, 18, hit some impressive

volleys, but her errors regularly occurred on key points. The Louisiana resident converted only one of 11 break-point opportunities; Sabatini was 6-for-12.

In the first set, Sabatini said she lost a "little concentration."

"If I'm not thinking of what I have to do, I start making double faults and start having trouble with my whole game," Sabatini said. "But I got out of it."

Despite Sabatini's 5-0 career advantage over Rubin, the 1990 U.S. Open champion said her opponent isn't an easy "W."

"I find her very tough to play, because she doesn't give you much rhythm," Sabatini said. "She likes to hit the ball very hard. She can play a great point, or miss the easiest ball."

Sabatini is eager to win the Slims of Philadelphia and gain her first tournament victory since the 1992 Italian Open.

"I'm feeling good, everything is there," she said. "Mentally, I'm there. I'm here to win."

Huber pummeled Kimberly Po, 6-3, 6-2, returning to center court semirefreshed after her postmidnight three-set victory over Wayne's Lisa Raymond in the second round.

Po, a semifinalist in Philadelphia a year ago now ranked No. 56, was overmatched.

Said Huber: "She made a lot of easy mistakes. On important points, she always missed. I thought after the first set that I'm not going to lose."

Pierce ended Meilen Tu's Philly fling with a 6-2, 6-4 victory.

The tiny Tu, playing in her second pro tournament, had upset No. 8-seed Amanda Coetzer and Katerina Maleeva. But Pierce was too tough for the 16-year-old Californian.

In the first set, Tu broke Pierce's serve to close to a 3-2 deficit. But then the U.S. Open girls junior champion was broken right back.

After taking a 4-1 lead in the second set, Pierce faltered and was broken on consecutive serves. She still led, 5-4, but Tu could not maintain her attack and lost her serve to end the match.

Now that the fifth-ranked Pierce is established as one of the world's top players, there is concern when a newcomer such as Tu or Martina Hingis is across the net. Last month at the European Indoors in Zurich, Switzerland, Pierce defeated the 14-year-old Hingis, 6-4, 6-0.

"I wasn't really nervous," Pierce said. "But you've never played them and they're young players. You say to yourself, 'I can't lose this match.'"

Zvereva extended her career shutout record against Brenda Schultz to 7-0, with a 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) victory in yesterday's opening quarterfinal.

Both singles semis will be followed by doubles semis. Sabatini has a busy afternoon: She and Schultz play Conchita Martinez and Patricia Tarabini. Tonight, fourth-seeded Raymond and Lindsay Davenport challenge top-seeded Zvereva and Gigi Fernandez. ■



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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gabriela Sabatini hits backhand during quarterfinal match with Chanda Rubin at Virginia Slims

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Scoreboard

TODAY

LIVE

- 1:00 FRANKLIN FIELD College Football Harvard at Penn
1:00 VETERANS STADIUM College Football West Virginia at Temple
1:00 O'SHIELDS-STEVENSON STADIUM College Football Bloomsburg at
Cheyney
1:30 CLOTHIER FIELD College Football Washington & Lee at Swarthmore
1:30 PATTERSON FIELD College Football Dickinson at Ursinus
2:00 PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION CENTER Tennis Virginia Slims
Tournament: Singles semifinals, Anke Huber vs. Gabriela Sabatini;
Doubles semifinals, Conchita Martinez and Patricia Tarabini vs.
Gabriela Sabatini and Brenda Schultz
7:00 p.m. PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION CENTER Tennis Virginia Slims
Tournament: Singles semifinals, Mary Pierce vs. Natalia Zvereva;
Doubles semifinals, Gigi Fernandez and Natalia Zvereva vs. Lisa
Raymond and Lindsay Davenport
7:30 SPECTRUM Pro Basketball Orlando Magic vs. Sixers

TENNIS

VIRGINIA SLIMS

At Pennsylvania Convention Center
WOMEN'S SINGLES

Quarterfinals

Natalia Zvereva (5), Belarus, def. Brenda Schultz,
Netherlands, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4).
Anke Huber (6), Germany, def. Kimberly Po, Incline
Village, Nev., 6-3, 6-2.
Mary Pierce (2), France, def. Meilen Tu, Northridge,
Calif., 6-2, 6-4.
Gabriela Sabatini (4), Argentina, def. Chanda Rubin,
Lafayette, La., 6-3, 6-0.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Quarterfinals

Conchita Martinez, Spain, and Patricia Tarabini,
Argentina, def. Pam Shriver, Baltimore, and Elizabeth
Smylie (3), Australia, 6-4, 6-4.
Gigi Fernandez, Aspen, Colo., and Natalia Zvereva
(1), Belarus, def. Amanda Coetzer, South Africa, and
Debbie Graham, Fountain Valley, Calif., 6-1, 6-0.
Lindsay Davenport, Palos Verdes, Calif., and Lisa
Raymond, Wayne, Pa. (4) def. Lea Ghirardi, France,
and Nino Louarsabishvili, Republic of Georgia, 6-2, 6-
7 (6-8), 6-4.

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Huber's long week pays off

by Bill Fleischman

Daily News Sports Writer

Some tennis players are serve-and-volley specialists. Others are known for their ferocious forehands or blazing backhands.

Suddenly, Anke Huber is developing into a relentless, three-set specialist.

Huber's 6-0, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5 victory over Mary Pierce in yesterday's Virginia Slims of Philadelphia final was the fourth of her five matches in the Convention Center to go three sets.

Usually, seeded players breeze through to the final without playing three sets. The second-seeded Pierce, for example, didn't lose a set on her way to the final.

In Huber's previous tournament victory, last month in Hildersstadt, Germany, she played three marathon matches (one was over the retiring Martina Navratilova).

Since the tenacious Huber has won the last two tournaments in which she has filled her resume with three-sets, the smiling, 19-year-old German said, "Maybe I have to play three sets. No, I'm really tired now. I didn't want to play two more games."

In earning the \$150,000 winner's check, the sixth-seeded Huber completed an against-all-odds week. In her opening match, she drew Jennifer Capriati, who was playing her first match in 14 months. Next up was hometown favorite Lisa Raymond, from Wayne.

In the semifinals, Huber had to face the popular Gabriela Sabatini. Yesterday, once Pierce got into the match, the crowd of 4,223 was rooting for her.

For a while yesterday, it appeared that anyone who lingered over brunch would miss the match. Playing flawlessly, Huber swept the first set in just 21 minutes. She won the first two games of the second set.

When Pierce finally interrupted the Huber march by taking the next game, she raised her arms in an at-last signal and the crowd cheered: for her, and for some competitive tennis.

Trailing, 4-2, Pierce won three consecutive games. Each player held serve until Pierce led, 5-4, in the tiebreaker. Huber then doublefaulted and stroked a loose forehand to give Pierce the set.

The momentum seemed to be with Pierce at this point, but she opened the third set by having her serve broken twice.

With Huber leading, 5-2, Pierce saved two match points with a backhand drop volley and a backhand half-volley that she reached after rushing in from the baseline.

Ahead, 5-3, Huber served for the match. After Pierce dramatically objected to two calls against her, Huber was presented her third match point. She reacted by double-faulting for the ninth time during the 2-hour, 8-minute match.

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Pierce punctuated the next game with a 97 mph serve to tie the set at 5-5. Huber held and then, on the fourth match point, she stroked a forehand winner.

Referring to her 4-0 advantage in the third set disappearing, Huber said, "It was tough because she was hitting the balls so hard. It was difficult to do something. At 5-2, I made some stupid mistakes and she played really well.

"At 5-5, I was really a bit down, but I just tried to stay into the match. I just tried to forget everything that happened before."

Overall, Huber was happy with her serve. Her winning percentage on her first serve was an impressive 81 percent, compared to Pierce's 57 percent.

Explaining her 10 double-faults, Huber said, "I have to serve the second serve really hard, otherwise it's her point. Her receive is unbelievably strong."

Following her recovery from her first-set stomping, Pierce, 19, felt her letdown at the beginning of the third set was too much to overcome.

"Anke got up really quickly," Pierce said, "and I just made too many mistakes."

Pierce, who beat fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva in the semifinals, still felt she could win when she balanced the third set at 5-5.

"It's really tough to lose a match like that," Pierce said, "because I was down practically the whole match and I saved two match points."

Adding to the fifth-ranked Pierce's disappointment is the knowledge that she is 0-for-5 in finals this year.

Ever since Huber began playing on the WTA Tour six years ago, she has been compared to countrywoman Steffi Graf. By the time Graf was 19, she had won three Grand Slam titles (her brilliant Slam total is 15). Huber's best Grand Slam finish was the semifinals of last year's French Open.

References to Graf annoy Huber, but she has learned to live in Graf's shadow. The top-ranked Graf was scheduled to play again in Philadelphia, but a nagging back injury forced her to withdraw. She plans to play in the Slims Championships starting today in New York City.

"In Germany," the 13th-ranked Huber said, "there are so many good players: Steffi, Boris [Becker] and Michael [Stich]. If you're No. 10, they really don't care. They only look for No. 1, No. 2, maybe top five."

By now for Huber, the comparisons to Graf are "normal. I got used to it."

It's also normal for top players to have a coach, but Huber has won two tournaments since the U.S. Open unsupervised.

"Maybe it's OK for three, four tournaments," Huber said, "but it's not OK for a full year. I'm looking for a coach."

The way Huber is playing, she'll have prospective coaches lined up around the block for interviews.

NET NOTES

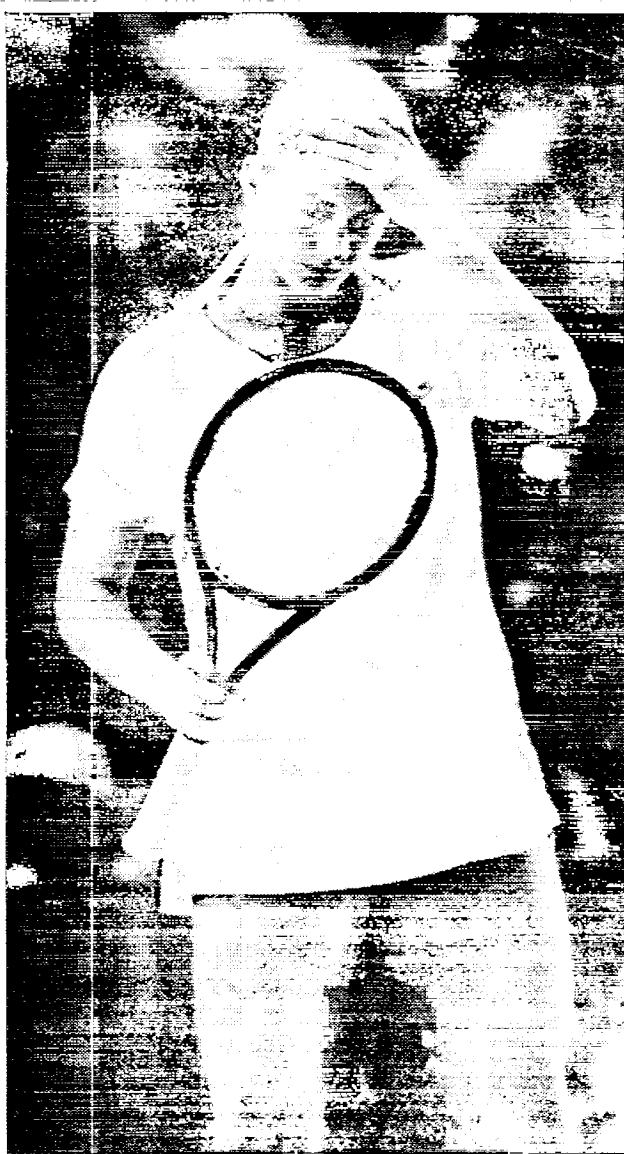
Top-seeded Gigi Fernandez and Natalia Zvereva rallied to win the doubles final over unseeded Gabriela Sabatini and Brenda Schultz, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. Fernandez and Zvereva split \$45,000. ... The tournament's total attendance was 43,208, about 3,000 less than last year's figure at the Civic Center. But tournament director Barbara Perry was pleased. Perry said she was braced for lower numbers since the Convention Center's seating capacity is smaller than the Civic Center. ■

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DAILY NEWS
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G. LOIE GROSSMANN/DAILY NEWS
Huber celebrates Slims of Philadelphia title



G. LOIE GROSSMANN/DAILY NEWS
Mary Pierce: 'I just made too many mistakes'

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Sports People

Evert offers Martina advice on retirement

by Bill Fleischman

Daily News Sports Writer

Martina Navratilova could be playing her final competitive singles match on the WTA Tour tonight at Madison Square Garden. If Navratilova, viewed by many as the greatest women's tennis player of all time, loses to **Gabriela Sabatini** in the first-round Virginia Slims Championships match, her career is over.

What will life after tennis be for Navratilova? Chris Evert thinks her friend will be fine.

"I think she wants to remain in the politics of the game and help to restructure the game," said Evert, in town to serve as the analyst on the Channel 3 and PRISM telecasts of the Slims of Philadelphia tournament last weekend at the Convention Center. "She's into writing and maybe she'll do some commentating, although I hope she doesn't take my job."



Evert

"I've told her, 'Don't think the first year of retirement is what retirement is all about.' She'll still be playing exhibitions and earning a lot of money, and they'll be having dinners for her. After that first year is when reality sets in."

Evert and Navratilova were friends early in their careers. Then, when former basketball star **Nancy Lieberman** was advising Navratilova, they drifted apart.

"Nancy taught Martina that she had to hate me," the six-time U.S. Open champion said. "It was nothing personal. Nancy thought Martina was too nice. At that stage of her career, she wasn't as intense as she needed to be to be No. 1."

"You know what? [Lieberman] had a point. Our relationship went to pot, but her tennis went up."

Evert and Navratilova, the president of the Women's Tennis Association, are friends again, and both are helping to guide the WTA Tour through uncharted waters. The tour was without a sponsor this year when Kraft withdrew four years into its five-year contract. The Virginia Slims contract expires after this year.

"If we don't find a sponsor, we're strong enough that we can endure next year," Evert said. "But starting in '96, we really need to find a sponsor."

Evert, a former WTA president, realizes the tour needs stars and rivalries.

"I have a feeling that **Monica [Seles]** will come back," Evert said. "But nobody knows, because she's sort of in hiding. **Jennifer [Capriati]** is back. Those two, with **Steffi [Graf]** and **Arantxa [Sanchez Vicario]** would set up potential rivalries."

"More than one name, the game needs rivalries. That's what carried Martina and I. The men had **[John] McEnroe**, **[Jimmy] Connors** and **[Bjorn] Borg**. That's what tennis needs right now."

NEW TUNE FOR PELLEGRINO

Diners at La Collina in Bala Cynwyd and the Greentree Inn, in Marlton, N.J., occasionally hear former television sportscaster **Joe Pellegrino** working on his singing act.

Pellegrino received rave reviews for his rendition of the national anthem at the Slims of Philadelphia tournament last week. Pellegrino, who still hosts a sports talk show on WSSJ (1310-AM) at 5 p.m. daily, sang the anthem twice: on opening night and the night Capriati played **Anke Huber**.

Before the tournament, Pellegrino volunteered to sing the anthem. Tournament director **Barbara Perry** liked his tapes and asked him to sing on opening night.

"When I finished," Pellegrino said, "Barbara asked me to sing before the Capriati-Huber match. I

said, 'How can I refuse?'"

I knew Pellegrino had acted in area theater productions, but I didn't know he was a singer.

"I studied voice for 10 years," he said. "I've thought about singing for a long time. A couple agents have liked the demo tape I've put together."

Pellegrino has been taking singing lessons from **Georgyn Geetlein**, whom longtime Flyers fans will remember for her stirring anthems. Geetlein hosts "Operatically Speaking" on Wednesday nights on WSSJ following Pellegrino's show.

PHILADELPHIA
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 15, 1994

DAILY NEWS
PHILADELPHIA, PA

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NOV 8, 1994

THE TIMES
TRENTON, NJ

AM - 70.445

SUN - 86.387

ME 21

It's Philly tennis, new site

By JON MARKS
Staff Writer

JN

PHILADELPHIA — The rich history of women's professional tennis in Philadelphia area includes just about every major sporting facility that's been here.

Go down the list: Palestra, Spectrum, Civic Center. Yes, they've all been the site at one time or another for events ranging from the women's tournaments, to Team Tennis, to the Federation Cup.

Now you can add one more. Would you believe the Pennsylvania Convention Center?

Yes, the same place where Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell welcomes visiting dignitaries, where the Phillies hosted a gala World Series party and where Jeffrey Lurie met the media for the first time after officially taking over the Eagles, is now the new home of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

And, the players admit, it isn't like most places they play.

"IT'S VERY odd to see just a tennis court in an empty building," said Mary Pierce, the No. 2 seed here, after needing just 46 minutes to dispatch Tatiana Ignatieva of Belarus, 6-0, 6-1, last night. "But as long as you have a lot of people in the stands, you still get a warm feeling."

Based on that comment, Pierce should've been downright shivering. Only a small cross section of the 5,000 seats built for the occasion were filled to watch the French Open finalist, who's achieved more notoriety for the revelations of her father stalking her and abusing her.

The rest undoubtedly are waiting until tonight when crowd favorite Gabriela Sabatini will take the court. Or more likely for tomorrow night when Jennifer Capriati will make her celebrated return to tennis after

SCHEDULE

Following is today's order of play in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Beginning at 9 a.m.

Patty Fendick, (Tahoe Village, Nev.) vs. Marianne Werdel, (San Diego, Cal.) (USA).

Lori McNeil, (Houston, Tex.) vs. Erika de Lone, (Lincoln, Mass.).

Chanda Rubin, (Lafayette, La.) vs. Amy Frazier (7), (Rochester Hills, Mich.).

Natalia Zvereva (5), (Belarus) vs. Meredith McGrath, (Midland, Mich.).

Katarina Maleeva (Bulgaria)/Robin White (USA) vs. Conchita Martinez (Spain)/ Patricia Tarabini (Argentina).

Julia Halard (France)/Nathalie Tauziat (France) vs. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)/Debbie Graham (USA).

Not before 7 p.m.

Gabriela Sabatini (4) (Argentina) vs. Jana Nejedly (Canada).

Lindsay Davenport (USA)/Lisa Raymond (USA) (4) vs Vicky Paynter (Canada)/Karine Quentrec (France).

more than a year's absence, during which she was arrested for both shoplifting and possession of drugs.

Local favorite Lisa Raymond, of Wayne, Pa., closed out the action last night by outlasting Sandra Cicic, 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-5.

The 19-year-old Pierce says it's great to have the 18-year-old Capriati back, but bristles when asked if the sport should regulate against players turning pro at such a young age.

"I turned pro at 14," said Pierce, the No. 5 player in the world, a finalist in four tournaments and semifinalist two other times. "I don't think there's anything wrong with it, except I regret traveling so much."

"The only way it's bad is that people start to expect a lot of you on the court, to play great tennis all the time."

"I THINK with Jennifer and all the young players they make such a

big deal of it, it's hard to perform all the time."

Perhaps, but great expectations don't seem to bother 16-year-old Californian Meilen Tu, who beat No. 8 seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa with shocking ease, 6-1, 6-3, for her first professional victory. Playing just her second event after turning pro, Tu says she has her priorities straight.

"A lot of top 10 players turned pro when they were 14 and they're perfectly fine," said Tu, who said her victory at the U.S. Open Juniors this summer triggered her decision to turn pro. "I have other things in my life besides tennis that keep me busy."

"I don't worry about burnout. I just come out to play and not worry about who's focusing on me."

At least in Philadelphia this week there's no pressure on her. That's will hardly be the case tomorrow when Capriati takes the court, facing Anke Huber of Germany, the No. 6 seed.

"Definitely, I'm happy to see Jennifer again," said Pierce, who swarmed all over Ignatieva, dropping just six points in the first set, before letting up just a bit in the second. "I haven't seen her for a year."

"All the players are glad to have her back."

So is women's tennis. But in a way, it's fitting that Capriati should choose Philadelphia to launch her comeback. After all, it was right in this area — at nearby Haverford College — where the 12-year-old Florida phenom first played against the pros at the late KISS 100 Invitational.

Now, six years later, it's the Convention Center, as the tradition of Philadelphia tennis continues this week.

As always — like last year when Conchita Martinez stunned top-ranked Steffi Graf — it should be memorable.

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NOV 8, 1994

THE TIMES
TRENTON, NJ

AM - 70.445
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Evert at ease JN

Chris Evert says she isn't nervous about her return to tennis as a broadcaster at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

"Let me put it in a gentle way," Evert said. "If I were doing the finals at Wimbledon, I think I'd be panicking. This is a big tournament, but the eyes of the world won't be watching the match."

Evert, who turns 40 next month, will do color commentary for SportsChannel Philadelphia and KYW-TV's telecast of the Slims semifinals and finals Saturday and Sunday from the Pennsylvania Convention Center, assisting KYW (Channel 3) sportscaster Lou Tilley.

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MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 8, 1994

THE TIMES
TRENTON, NJ

AM - 70.445

SUN - 86.387

HE 21

Capriati, minus smile, back on court

By MIKE KOLLER.
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A relaxed but unsmiling Jennifer Capriati returned quietly to a tournament practice court yesterday, concentrating more on her forehand than the people watching her.

The 18-year-old who lost interest in tennis more than a year ago was all business at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, ignoring a crowd

watching her as she returned balls to new coach Jose Higuera.

Capriati has a first-round match tomorrow night at 7 against No. 6 seed Anke Huber in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. It is her first appearance in professional tennis since leaving the game and battling a host of personal problems, including drug addiction.

BUT YESTERDAY, Capriati looked like she wanted to play again. She returned serves with powerful

forehands for more than 30 minutes without a break, stopping occasionally to wipe her forehead.

"I wouldn't say I'm in tip-top shape, but I feel good enough to break the ice," Capriati said in a five-paragraph statement, declining interviews. "I'm not even thinking about winning or losing. Who the opponent is doesn't really matter. I just want to have fun out there."

Capriati fought her way into the pros at age 13 before leaving the game, citing burnout and injuries.

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Capriati set for Slims play

'Comeback Kid' meets Huber

By DAVID PORTER
Staff Writer

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PHILADELPHIA — It seemed appropriate on Election Day, in a city where the absentee ballot has frequently altered the course of entire elections, that the most compelling story at the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia would be sent in by proxy.

In a continuing demonstration of the micro-managed world of professional tennis, Jennifer Capriati was both here and not here at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, where she will play her first professional match in 14 months tomorrow night against No. 6 seed Anke Huber.

While the Capriati Watch continued around the clock, a tournament was going on, and here were some of yesterday's winners: Chanda Rubin, who knocked off No. 7 seed Amy Frazier with

surprising ease, 6-1, 6-1; No. 4 seed Gabriela Sabatini, who struggled early against qualifier Jana Nejedly before settling down for a 6-4, 6-1 victory; and No. 5 Natalia Zvereva, who defeated Meredith McGrath, 6-4, 6-3.



Sabatini

Lori McNeil, who had been scheduled to play Erika de Lone in the first round, withdrew with tendinitis in her shoulder, and de Lone seized the opportunity to defeat her replacement, Mercedes Paz, 6-3, 6-2.

WHILE CAPRIATI was unavailable to answer even the most innocuous of questions, attention turned to temporary coach Jose "I'm just her hitting partner" Higuera, a Spaniard who has made a name coaching Jim Courier for the last four years.

Capriati, once the No. 6-ranked player in the world as a 15-year-old in 1991, is not ranked and hasn't played a match since losing in the first round of the 1993 U.S. Open to Leila Meskhi, which explained the crowd that gathered to get a glimpse of her at the tournament practice courts yesterday.

Never mind that there was actual tennis being played throughout the day down the hall, with umpires and linespeople and people keeping score.

If the eyes weren't deceiving, Ca-

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

MUTUAL
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NOV 9, 1994

THE TIMES
TRENTON, NJ

AM - 70.445

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Capriati, Sabatini, Higuera, and Brenda Schultz, Netherlands.

Not before 7 p.m.

Jennifer Capriati, Rancho Mirage, Calif., vs. Anke Huber (6), Germany; Gigi Fernandez, Aspen, Colo., and Natalia Zvereva, Belarus (1) vs. Manon Bollegraf, Netherlands, and Zina Garrison Jackson, Houston.

priati was hitting the ball as crisply as ever during her practice session with Higuera, and appeared calm and relaxed off the court.

"All I can say is, since I've been with her she's seemed to be really enjoying it," Higuera said. "We've been practicing about three or four hours a day, and she seems like she's been having fun. I wasn't around her before, but she has a very good attitude right now."

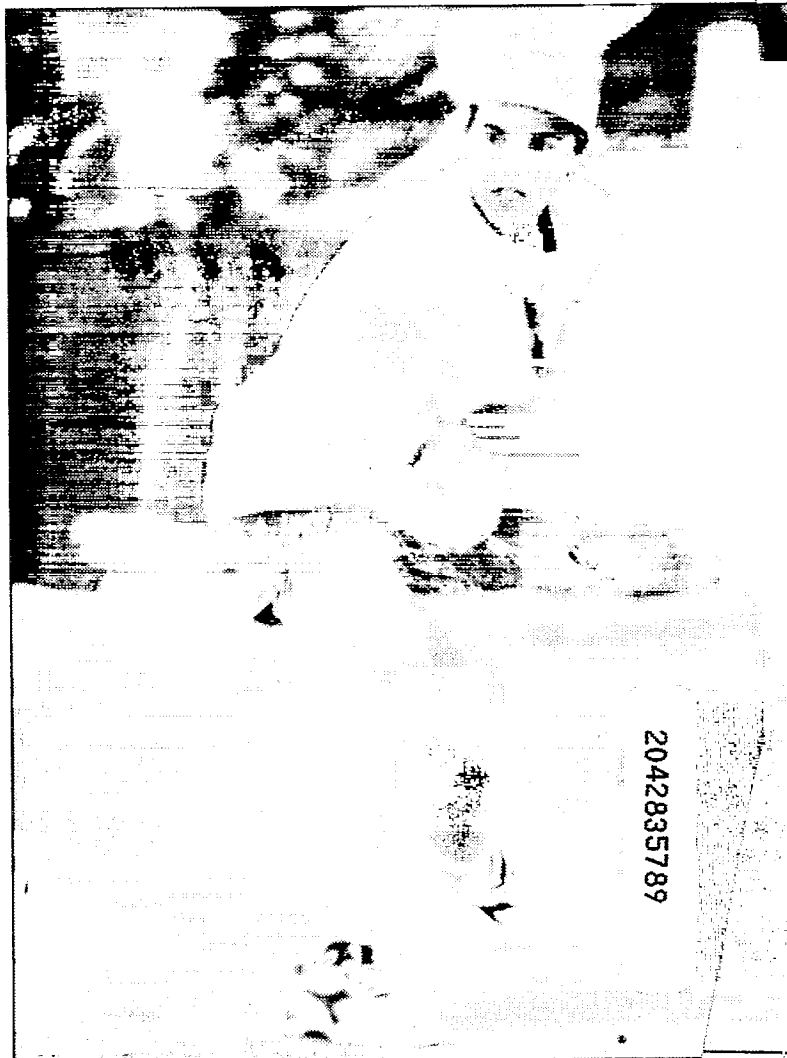
"She's hitting the ball real well and has been working hard. Timing-wise, she seems to be hitting the ball fine."

CAPRIATI DROPPED off the tour last fall and made news in the spring when she was arrested and eventually charged with possession of marijuana. After the arrest it was revealed that she had been in drug treatment earlier in the year and had moved out of her parents' house in Saddlebrook, Fla.

The family moved to Rancho Mirage, Calif., this fall, where Capriati met Higuera, who lives nearby. Higuera, who studiously refrained from calling himself Capriati's coach, hinted yesterday that his arrangement with Capriati is a temporary one.

"I have prior commitments, but if I can include her and help her, I'll be more than happy to. But right now we're just taking it one day at a time, one week at a time," he said.

At least one person won't have any difficulty adjusting to what promises to be a circus-like atmo-



AP photo by Otender

Jennifer Capriati returns the ball during a practice session yesterday in Philadelphia. She faces Anke Huber tonight.

sphere tonight. Huber recalled playing against Martina Navratilova recently in her native Germany and having her compatriots cheering for Navratilova.

"I didn't even know she was playing here — somebody called me up and told me," Huber said yesterday afternoon after finishing a practice session on the same court Capriati had used earlier. "I was surprised. It's a little strange. It's going to be difficult now, because I don't know what to expect. But I feel like I have nothing to lose."

When asked if he expected Capriati to be nervous making her debut against a top-ranked player, Higuera responded, "I think it would be strange if she's not. But I think after she hits a few balls she'll be all

right.

"Sometimes when you're playing a better player it makes you get on the court and be more ready to play. Playing a lower-ranked player can actually be tougher."

RESU

Sing
Patty Fendick, Tahoe, Nev., def. Mari-
anne Werdel, San Diego, 4-6; Erika de Lone,
Lincoln, Mass., def. Mercedes Paz, Argentina, 6-3,
6-2; Chanda Rubin, Lafayette, La., def. Amy Fra-
zier (7), Rochester Hills, 6-1, 6-1; Natalia
Zvereva (5), Belarus, def. Meredith McGrath, Mid-
land, Mich., 6-4, 6-3; Huguera, France, def.
Linda Harvey-Wild, Hav Woods, Ill., 6-2, 3-6,
6-3; Gabriela Sabatini, Argentina, def. Jana
Nejedly, Canada, 6-4, 6-1.

Conchita Martinez, and Patricia Tarabini,
Argentina, def. Katerina Maleeva, Bulgaria, and
Robin White, Del Mar, 6-4, 6-0; Amanda
Coetzer, South Africa, def. Debbie Graham, Foun-
tain Valley, Calif., 6-4, 7-6 (7-4); Lindsay
Davenport, Murrieta, Calif., and Lisa Raymond,
Wayne, Pa., def. Vijay, Canada, and Kar-
ine Quentrec, France, 6-4.

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Capriati falls in long-awaited return

By DAVID PORTER
Staff Writer

JN

TENNIS

PHILADELPHIA — Like a contract holdout who steps up to the plate after missing all of spring training, Jennifer Capriati stepped onto a tennis court with the bright lights shining for the first time in over a year last night. While the 18-year-old didn't quite hit a home run, she served notice that the prodigious talent that carried her into the top 10 as a 15-year-old may yet allow her to reach those heights again.

With a crowd somewhere near 5,000 people in Hall A of the Pennsyl-

vania Convention Center cheering her every move in her match against German Anke Huber, the No. 6 seed at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, Capriati displayed her trademark power in a 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 loss that was either a testament to Capriati's ability or to the talent level on the women's tour. Huber, the No. 13-ranked player in the world, had her hands full for the first two sets, and only pulled away in the third when Capriati, visibly battling fatigue, began to slip.

"IT'S GREAT to be back. It's great to be playing out there again," Capriati said afterward in front of a roomful of microphones and cameras. "My tennis felt better and stronger than in the last few matches I played (in 1993). I got tired in the third set, because I'm not used to running like that."

Capriati's travails since her 1993 loss in the first round of the U.S. Open have been well-documented, from the arrest for shoplifting in a Tampa, Fla., mall in December to the drug possession charges in May and subsequent disclosure that she had undergone drug rehabilitation twice during early 1994.

Yesterday Capriati said that despite not picking up a racket for nine months, she always felt she would return to the pro tour.

"I LEARNED that I really love the game, and that it doesn't matter if I win or lose," she said. "I experienced a lot, and I got wiser. I found out what makes me happy. I learned a lot about myself."

While she stopped short of saying she would pursue a full tour schedule next year, she did express a desire to play in the Australian Open,

• see CAPRIATI, p. 3

A

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ME 21



AP photo by Chris Gardner
Jennifer Capriati reaches to make a return to Anke Huber.

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Capriati

• continued from C1

the first of the four major events.

"I'm just going to try to play my best," she said. "I'm not expecting anything for myself. My goal isn't to be No. 1 or anything, it's to play and see how I do."

During Capriati's hiatus, one of the players that kept in touch with her was Lindsay Davenport, who is the No. 3 seed here.

"She went through her up and down periods, obviously," Davenport said yesterday before Capriati's match. "But she always said she was going to come back. I think she just wanted to be away and really do other things. I'd thought she'd maybe wait until next year to come back. She's back because she missed it and because she wanted to have fun again. She has a great attitude right now and I think when she gets through this, whether she wins or loses, the more she plays the less of a deal it will be. I think she's going to handle it well, win or lose."

CAPRIATI almost pulled off an improbable victory over Huber, who appeared tense during the early part of the match and was clearly spooked during certain stretches when Capriati's powerful strokes had the crowd behind her. While Capriati gained confidence during a closely played first set, Huber became more passive and allowed Capriati to dictate play in the second set.

Capriati jumped to a 4-0 lead in the second set and won the set on a cross-court forehand off a drop shot by Huber that brought the crowd out of its seats.

TODAY

Beginning at 9 a.m.

Natalie Tauziat vs. Kimberly Po
Patty Fendick vs. Mary Pierce (2)
Brenda Schultz vs. Lindsay Davenport (3)
Gabriela Sabatini (4) vs. Joannette Krugger
Meilen Tu vs. Katerina Maleeva
Patty Fendick/Meredith McGarth (2) vs. Gabriela Sabatini/Brenda Schultz

Natalia Zvereva (5) vs. Julie Halard

Beginning at 7 p.m.

Lisa Raymond vs. Anke Huber (6)
Jennifer Capriati/Mercedes Paz vs. Pam Shriver/Elizabeth Smylie (3)

"I let her play in the second set too much," Huber said. "But I played much better in the third."

Capriati fell behind 4-0 in the third set and was clearly too winded to rally.

"She didn't move as well," said Huber, "but her shots were the same (as before). Maybe you don't have the feel for the game after not playing for 15 months, but if she practices and plays a few more matches, she's going to be the same player she was."

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ME 21

Tauziat pulls upset on Martinez

By DAVID PORTER
Staff Writer

2005N

SLIMS NOTEBOOK

PHILADELPHIA — Nathalie Tauziat probably figured this week's Virginia Slims of Philadelphia was going to be another typical week for her, another spin on the weekly merry-go-round of the women's tennis circuit.

It would go something like this: Lose in the first or second round in singles, then spend the rest of the week playing doubles, maybe reaching the semifinals or even the final. The scenario looked even more likely when she drew No. 1 seed and defending champion Conchita Martinez in the first round, and was reunited with doubles partner Julie Halard to prepare for the duo's appearance at next week's season-ending Virginia Slims Championships.

As of yesterday, Tauziat's week became anything but typical. The 39th-ranked Frenchwoman, who had lost in the first or second rounds of 11 tournaments this year, knocked off Martinez, the reigning Wimbledon champion, 6-4, 6-4, in one hour and 23 minutes. This occurred less than

24 hours after Tauziat and Halard, one of eight doubles teams to qualify for next week's Slims Championships in New York, were bounced out of the tournament by the less heralded team of Amanda Coetzer and Debbie Graham.

"THIS IS my last (singles) tournament of the year and I'm playing the No. 1 seed, so I have nothing to lose here," Tauziat said. "When I play my best tennis I feel I can beat anybody, and today I played one of my best matches of the year."

It hasn't exactly been a banner year for Tauziat, who was ranked as high as No. 11 in 1992, the year she reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals. But after a string of early-round defeats she has righted herself, reaching the quarterfinals and semifinals, respectively, at her last two tournaments.

Yesterday she chose her net approaches carefully against Martinez,

who possesses one of the tour's most deadly arsenals of passing shots.

"She passes really well, so I waited for the good balls to do it, so I did it when I had the chance," Tauziat said.

One chance came at 3-3 in the second set when she pressured Martinez into a backhand error to gain a service break and a 4-3 lead. After that, she held serve to go ahead 5-3, then got successive net cords on the final two points of the match, which caused Martinez to shake her head and gaze up at the ceiling as the final point concluded.

"I haven't been playing well at the end of this year, and I wish I knew why," said Martinez, who is ranked No. 3 in the world and will participate in next week's championships. "I didn't play too bad today. I was hitting the ball well and serving alright, but she was just tough."

Amid the sound and fury accompanying Jennifer Capriati's return this week, Chanda Rubin, another

teen prodigy who is a month older than Capriati, but who waited a year and a half to turn professional, has quietly been playing some of the best tennis of the tournament.

Rubin reached the quarterfinals with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over qualifier Erika de Lone yesterday morning, a day after upsetting No. 7 seed Amy Frazier. Rubin's next opponent will most likely be No. 4 seed Gabriela Sabatini, who faces qualifier Johanna Kruger today.

Results Singles

Chanda Rubin, Lafayette, La., def. Erika de Lone, Lincoln, Mass., 6-2, 6-2; Nathalie Tauziat, France, def. Conchita Martinez (1), Spain, 6-4, 6-4; Lindsay Davenport (3), Murrieta, Calif., def. Tami Whitlinger-Jones, Neenah, Wisc., 7-5, 6-3; Brenda Schultz, Netherlands, def. Pam Shriver, Baltimore, 6-4, 6-0; Katerina Maleeva, Bulgaria, def. Zina Garrison-Jackson, Houston, 6-4, 7-5; Anke Huber, Germany, def. Jennifer Capriati, Wesley Chapel, Fla., 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

Doubles

Nino Louarssabishvili, Republic of Georgia, and Lea Ghirardi, France, def. Jill Hetherington, Sarasota, Fla., and Shaun Stafford, Gainesville, Fla., 6-3, 6-2; Marianne Werdel, Palo Alto, Calif., and Tami Whitlinger-Jones, Neenah, Wisc., vs. Gabriela Sabatini, Argentina, and Brenda Schultz, Netherlands; Gigi Fernandez, Aspen, Colo., and Natalia Zvereva, Belarus (1), def. Manon Bollegraf, Netherlands, and Zina Garrison-Jackson, Houston, Texas, 6-2, 6-2.

2042835792

Troubled Capriati back on baseline

By HARVEY ARATON
The New York Times

TENNIS

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati was back on the baseline last night, rooted to the place where a good deal of her problems began.

She was back on the young women's tennis tour, in the back of the court, trading her powerful groundstrokes with a 19-year-old German named Anke Huber, who was once supposed to be the second coming of Steffi Graf.

Capriati, of course, was going to be the next Chris Evert when she first hit the tour at 13, awash in cor-

porate millions, hawking facial cream even before her own little war with the demon acne began.

When Evert was in her prime, Bud Collins began calling tennis' reigning baseline monarch Chris America. The closest Capriati actually got to becoming a national source of pride was when she won the Olympic gold medal at Barcelona, Spain, in 1992. Soon she was losing matches and career interest, wandering from the court and into a rebellious drug culture that landed

her a police record to go with her slipping computer ranking.

Tennis mourned her. Sponsors deserted her. She was another classic case of baseline burnout.

THE PUSHY father, Stefano Capriati, took a well-deserved news media beating. Women's tennis stiffened its participatory guidelines, predictably grandfathering the newest child prodigies into a dull, depleted lineup. Capriati, meanwhile, planned her comeback, at 18.

Maybe she was going to have to shake her father's obsession, one way or another. Maybe this is a story that has less to do with tennis, and

more to do with family dysfunction. But maybe tennis, even professional tennis at 13, didn't have to become the quagmire it was for Capriati, the monotonous, grueling, global treadmill, topspin forehands to nowhere.

Watching the Knicks the other night, I thought about Capriati when the camera stopped on Charlie Ward, the rookie point guard who shouldn't plan on leaving coach Pat Riley's bench too often. Ward, who has played college basketball at its highest level, is essentially being paid to observe, practice and learn.

• see CAPRIATI, C3

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Capriati

• continued from C1

He is only 22, and his sport is willing to let him grow.

Young players in team sports do play, some better than others, but they all, even Dave Brown, generally get a break. Their mistakes are tolerated with the hope they will get better. They are expected to try new things.

In Capriati's case, there was little or no room for that. The magic progression for teenaged stars is to turn pro, get a ranking, then get a higher ranking.

YOUR INCOME, your parents' income, depends on it. Capriati wasn't about to fool around with a game that made her a junior champion and a corporate powerhouse. She wasn't going to hit her best serve

and follow it to the net, unless the match was over and it was time to shake the opponent's hand.

She wasn't going to diversify her game, make it easier on body, mind and soul.

Tracy Austin, another short-circuited child star, couldn't take the physical beating of baseline tennis. These days, it's a better bet that the head will give way before the body. Ask Jim Courier about that.

Even the most gifted players who make their living from the back, who get few easy points, have to find ways to compensate. Before she was driven out of the sport by a lunatic, Monica Seles took flights of fancy from tennis, skipping Wimbledon, wearing elaborate disguises. Andre Agassi has been on and off the tour, and at last summer's U.S. Open, he may have discovered the best solution of all. He worked on his serve and has started going to the net, knocking off a volley winner or two.

Capriati falls in 3 sets in return

By BUCKY GLEASON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati, appearing to tire in the third set in her return to tennis, lost 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 last night to Anke Huber in the opening round of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

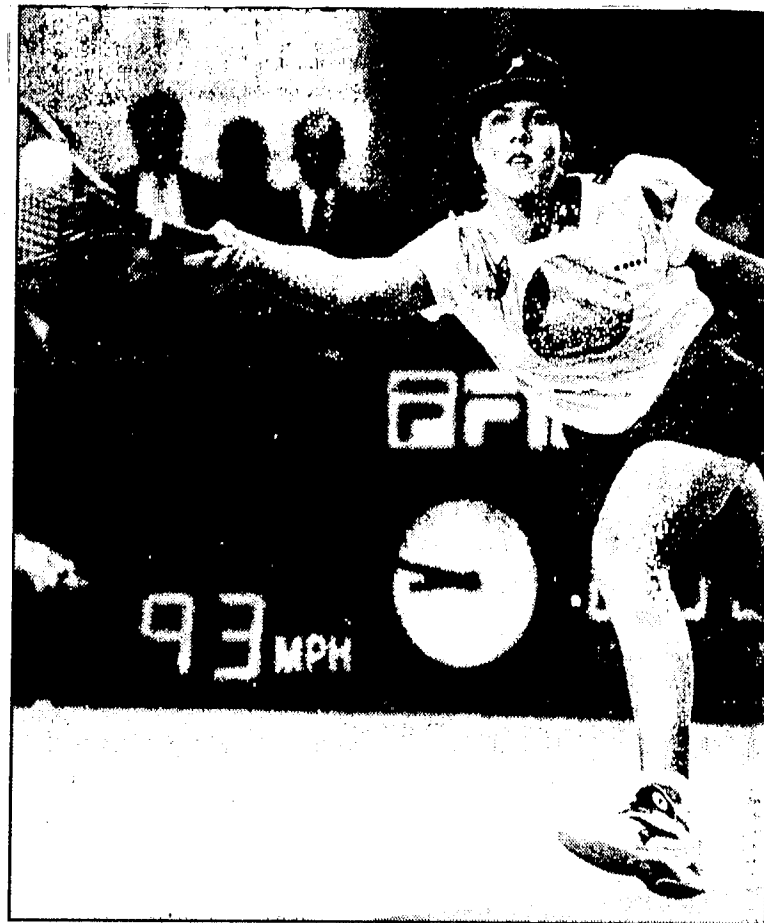
Capriati, who spent more than a year away from the women's tour because of burnout, injuries and legal problems, dropped the first three games of the final set to the German, who is ranked 13th in the world.

Capriati was unable to recover in

the final set after dropping the first four games. Capriati drew within 4-1 in the third with her first ace, but never threatened.

The 18-year-old Floridian smiled while receiving a warm greeting from the 4,500 fans at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. She wore a blue skirt, white shirt and a baseball cap supporting the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS.

Capriati's groundstrokes were sound in the first two sets. She was able to find corners and hit deep forehands, as is her trademark, and stayed away from Huber's power for most of the first set until the German won the final two games.



AP photo by Chris Gardner

Jennifer Capriati reaches to make a return to Anke Huber.

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NOV 8, 1994

COURIER POST
CHERRY HILL, NJ

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CA 21

Capriati practices, Coetzer upset by Tu

PHILADELPHIA — A relaxed but unsmiling Jennifer Capriati returned quietly to a tournament practice court Monday, concentrating more on her forehand than the people watching her.

Capriati has a first-round match Wednesday night (7 p.m.) against No. 6 seed Anke Huber in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. It is her first appearance in professional tennis since leaving the game and battling a host of personal problems, including drug addiction.

On Monday, Meilen Tu, a 16-year-old high school student from Northridge, Calif., upset Amanda Coetzer 6-1, 6-3 in the opening round.

Coetzer is seeded No. 8 and is ranked No. 16 in the world.

Earlier, Joannette Kruger of South Africa defeated Shaun Stafford 6-3, 6-3, and Kimberly Po eliminated Maria Alejandro Vento 6-4, 1-6, 7-5.

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PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 8, 1994

COURIER POST
CHERRY HILL, NJ

SUN - 118,360
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Evert also returns to tennis at Slims

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Chris Evert says she isn't nervous about her return to tennis as a broadcaster at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

"Let me put it in a gentle way," Evert said in an interview published Monday. "If I were doing the finals at Wimbledon, I think I'd be panicking. This is a big

tournament, but the eyes of the world won't be watching the match."

This year's tournament is highlighted by returns to the sport. Jennifer Capriati is returning to the tour after more than a year of inactivity with action in the Slims.

Evert, who turns 40 next month, will do color commentary for KYW-TV (Channel 3).

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NOV 9, 1994

COURIER POST
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SUN - 118.360

PM - 128.500

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Capriati begins comeback

Faces Huber today at Virginia Slims of Philadelphia

By CHRIS MACIEJEWSKI

For the Courier-Post

2005N

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati hasn't played a professional tennis match in 14 months. That all ends today with a first-round match at the 1994 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia at the Philadelphia Convention Center.

Capriati's short career has been marked by an arrest for shoplifting and a drug possession charge, after which she spent 28 days in a treatment center. The 18-year-old returns with a match against Germany's Anke Huber, the tournament's sixth seed, tonight at 7 p.m.

Capriati practiced Tuesday for her first match since an opening-round loss to Leila Meskhi at the 1993 U.S. Open. Afterward, she declined interviews.

According to Jose Higuera, Capriati's hitting partner, Capriati is ready for her comeback.

"Since I've been with her, she seems to really enjoy playing," said Higuera, who's been hitting with Capriati for about a month. "We've been practicing three to

For openers

● Gabriela Sabatini defeats Jana Nejedly 6-4, 6-1. Page 2D

four hours a day, and she appears very happy to be back playing tennis."

Several months after her U.S. Open loss, Capriati, who turned pro at the age of 13, announced on Jan. 17 she needed a break from tennis and wanted to finish high school. She had been arrested for shoplifting in December of 1993. In May of 1994, Capriati was arrested in Florida and charged with marijuana possession. Reports also circulated following the incident that she had used cocaine.

Packing both power and quickness, Capriati joined the professional tour as a highly touted 13-year-old in 1990. In her rookie season, the teenager lived up to every expectation.

Capriati became the third-youngest player (14 years, six months and 29 days) to ever win a tour event when she defeated Zina Garrison to win the 1990 Puerto Rican Open. That same year, she became

the youngest seed (No. 12 at Wimbledon) in Grand Slam history. Capriati's star continued to shine when she defeated Steffi Graf to win the 1992 Olympic gold medal.

Then came the growing pains.

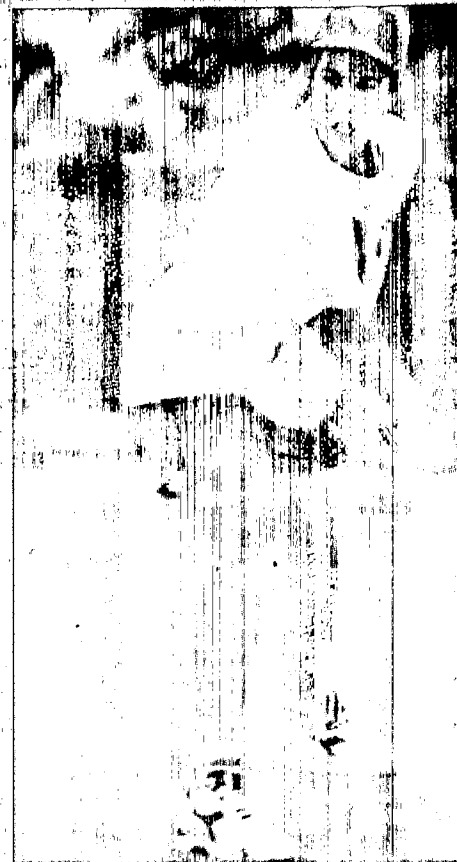
Higuera pointed out that Capriati's personal successes have been much more important than her successes on the court.

"I care about Jennifer more than I care about Jennifer's tennis," Higuera said. "She's a great little girl. I'm just glad to see her out playing and enjoying herself again."

Higuera, who coaches Jim Courier, believes Capriati is physically ready to return to professional tennis.

"Jennifer is hitting the ball very well," Higuera said. "She's been working very hard. We've been doing some running and going to the gym. So, I think, her conditioning is fine."

Despite her off-court troubles, Capriati had finished all four of her professional seasons (1990-93) ranked among the Top 10 players in the world until her self-imposed, 14-month layoff.



By Bob Olander, Associated Press

Return: Jennifer Capriati practices Tuesday for first match in 14 months.

2042835797

Sabatini's back in winning form

By CHRIS MACIEJEWSKI
For the Courier-Post

PHILADELPHIA — Gabriela Sabatini, one-time challenger for the top spot in the Women's Tennis Association Tour rankings, is in the throes of a prolonged slump.

She hasn't won a tournament since the 1992 Italian Open, hasn't reached a Grand Slam final since Wimbledon in 1991 and has fallen to No. 9, her lowest WTA ranking since 1986.

At the Pennsylvania Convention Center Tuesday, Sabatini won her first-round match 6-4, 6-1 over Canadian Jana Nejedly at the 1994 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia with a seesaw 6-4, 6-1 win.

In other action involving seeded players, No. 7 Amy Frazier, who bounced Sabatini from last year's event with a three-set quarterfinal win, fell to Chanda Rubin 6-1, 6-1 in another first-round match. The only other seeded player to see action Tuesday was fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva, who advanced to the second round with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Meredith McGrath.

Throughout her career, Sabatini's main weapons have been her looping groundstrokes. Loaded with topspin, Sabatini's strokes kept Nejedly pinned at the baseline where Sabatini waited for a mistake or a short ball she could put away.

Nejedly is part of an increasing number of players who hit the ball on a flatter, deeper line. Unlike Sabatini's looping strokes,

Nejedly's style lets her hit more winners from behind the baseline, rather than come in behind short balls.

Despite an improved serve that consistently topped 90 mph and the 11 double-faults that resulted from trying it, Sabatini still fell behind Nejedly, a qualifier ranked No. 141.

Nejedly slugged her way to two early service breaks and then held serve for a 3-1 first-set lead. But Nejedly's command of the match was short-lived. The 20-year-old Canadian wouldn't hold serve again. Sabatini, whipping groundstrokes to the court's corners and using her trademark topspin to loop shots over her opponent, won five of the next six games to take a one-set lead after 42 minutes of play.

"It was hard," Sabatini said. "I

don't think I played badly. I don't think I was playing badly at any point, not even at the beginning. She was just playing very well. She surprised me at how well she played."

Down a set, Nejedly's groundstrokes, placed deep along the baseline early, failed in the second set. Instead of moving Sabatini around, Nejedly ended points quickly on a barrage of unforced errors.

Sabatini won 12 of 15 points to open a 3-0 lead in the second set. When Nejedly hit a backhand into the net, Sabatini had her sixth service break. The second set was only 17 minutes old, and Sabatini's lead was 4-0.

"I'm feeling pretty good about my serve," Sabatini, who'll meet another qualifier, Joannette Kruger

Virginia Slims of Philadelphia

Patty Fendick, Tahoe Village, Nev., d. Marianne Werdel, San Diego, 6-2, 6-4; Erika de Lone, Lincoln, Mass., d. Mercedes Paz, Argentina, 6-3, 6-2; Chanda Rubin, Lafayette, La., d. Amy Frazier, Rochester Hills, Mich., 6-1, 6-1; Natalia Zvereva, Belarus, d. Meredith McGrath, Midland, Mich., 6-4, 6-3; Julie Halard, France, d. Linda Harvey-Wild, Hawthorn Woods, Ill., 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; Gabriela Sabatini, Argentina, d. Jana Nejedly, Canada, 6-4, 6-1.

Today's matches

(Beginning at 9 a.m.)

Jill Hetherington, Sarasota, Fla., and Shaun Stafford, Gainesville, Fla., vs. Lroi McNeil, Houston, and Rennae Stubbs, Australia.

Erika de Lone, Lincoln, Mass., vs. Chanda Rubin, Lafayette, La.
Brenda Schultz, The Netherlands, vs. Pam Shriver, Baltimore, Md.

(1) Conchita Martinez, Spain, vs. Nathalie Tauziat, France.

Tami Whitlinger-Jones, Neenah, Wis., vs. (3) Lindsay Davenport, Palos Verdes, Calif.

Katerina Maleeva, Bulgaria, vs. Zina Garrison-Jackson, Houston.

Marianne Werdel, Palo Alto, Calif., and Tami Whitlinger-Jones, Neenah, Wis., vs. Gabriela Sabatini, Argentina, and Brenda Schultz, The Netherlands.

Not before 7 p.m.

Jennifer Capriati, Rancho Mirage, Calif., vs. (6) Anke Huber, Germany.

(1) Gigi Fernandez, Aspen, Colo. and Natalia Zvereva, Belarus, vs. Manon Bollegraf, The Netherlands, and Zina Garrison-Jackson, Houston.

of South Africa, in the second round, said. "I've been working on it a lot. It's much more aggressive than it used to be.

"It makes a big difference

because I can now win a lot of free points. It also helps my confidence, because I can really hit my groundstrokes when I know I'm serving well."

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NOV 9, 1994
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2042835798

Capriati falls short

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 10, 1994

COURIER POST
CHERRY HILL, NJ

SUN - 118,360

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CR 21

■ Defeated:

Playing in her first match in 14 months, Jennifer Capriati loses to Anke Huber 6-4, 3-6, 6-1. 2005N

By CHRIS MACIEJEWSKI
For the Courier-Post

PHILADELPHIA — The outcome didn't matter.

To Jennifer Capriati, all that mattered was that she was back doing what she does best, playing tennis.

Wednesday, at the 1994 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, in the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Capriati played her first professional tennis match in 14 months.

Capriati lost her opening-round match, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 to Germany's Anke Huber, the tournament's sixth seed.

Nearly lost among the frenzy brought on by Capriati's match was Nathalie Tauziat's 6-4, 6-4 first-round upset of defending champion and top-seeded Conchita Martinez.

Capriati appeared comfortable hitting her groundstrokes, but tentative, especially early in the match when she served. Through her first two service games, Capriati didn't hit a first serve above 79 mph or a second serve above 68 mph.

After Huber ripped a winning cross-court backhand off a weak second serve, Capriati appeared to disregard her cautious approach. She fired in her next two first serves. Both topped 90 mph.

As if served with another wakeup call, Capriati, brandishing a powerful forehand, stormed to a 4-0 lead on her way to evening the match at one set apiece.

In the third set, Huber finally cut down on her unforced errors and Capriati

couldn't keep up the pace.

Capriati's appearance signified an end to more than a year of discontent.

After stepping away from the tour to finish high school following a first-round loss to Leila Meskhi at the U.S. Open in September of '93, Capriati was arrested three months later for shoplifting a ring she said she simply forgot to pay for.

But, Capriati's world as a teenage tennis phenom came crashing down with an arrest on drug possession charges at a

Miami hotel room last May.

Capriati last won a match in August of 1993, when she defeated Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the semifinals of the Canadian Open.

Tauziat's win ended two streaks and continued another. First, the win over Martinez, the reigning Wimbledon champion, halted a dreadful streak that has dropped Tauziat's world ranking to No.39. She began the year ranked 17th.

Unseeded: Top-seeded Conchita Martinez returns the ball to Nathalie Tauziat during the Virginia Slims, of Philadelphia Wednesday. Martinez was upset in straight sets 6-4, 6-4.

By Nanine Hartzenbusch, Associated Press

Second, Martinez's loss marks the first time since the WTA Tour returned to Philadelphia (after an 11-year absence) that the event's top seed won't be around for the final. Steffi Graf, the top seed the last two years, won here in 1992 and was runner-up to Martinez last year. No.1 seed Monica Seles won the event in 1991.

Unfortunately for Martinez, the loss also kept alive a stretch that finds her stumbling toward the end of the '94 season.

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Capriati is welcomed back to tennis tour

By DOUG SMITH

P200X 7/14 SA Today

PHILADELPHIA — When her practice session ended, Jennifer Capriati stopped to chat with several players who welcomed her back. Fans followed and stopped her for autographs.

Though absent from the tour for more than a year,

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Capriati, 18, seemed at ease and delighted to be back. Many fellow pros who saw her Monday said hello and

■ Coetzer upset in opener . . C5

gave her a hug. Capriati will play No. 6 seed Anke Huber Wednesday in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, in her first match since a 1993 U.S. Open first-round loss.

"A lot of the players have been sending her notes and calling her," said Anne P. Worcester, head of the WTA Tour. "Much of her social life was on the tour, and I think she misses that."

Steffi Graf and Magdalena Maleeva called periodically during her absence; Natalia Zvereva and Lindsay Davenport sent faxes from Oakland last week upon learning of her plans to return.

Women pros and officials seem determined to be sensi-

D See CAPRIATI — C5

Capriati: Returns to tennis tour

FROM PAGE C1

tive and supportive as Capriati attempts to overcome a series of troubling experiences that included an arrest last May for possession of marijuana.

"We're getting to know each other better, and I really like her," Davenport said. "I felt bad for her in her situation, because I don't think it was her fault. I hope the media will be a little bit easy. I don't think she had a serious problem."

Said Amanda Coetzer: "She's acted pretty responsibly for the last few months. I'm sure she'll work things out for herself."

She takes the first step back without her parents, Denise and Stefano, but either or both might show if she's still playing by the weekend. Capriati is also entered in the doubles, with Mercedes Paz of Argentina. She's been working with Jose Higuera since the family moved recently to Rancho Mirage, Calif., but Higuera says it's a short-term arrangement.

Capriati had planned to return to the tour last month in Zurich, Switzerland. "I started serious practice sometime in August," she said. "I thought that I would be ready last month, but I pulled a [groin] muscle, and that set me back. Gradually, my practices become more intense. I really stepped up my workouts the past week."

Capriati, who was once ranked No. 6 in the world, isn't sure if her next step will be along the same path.

"In regards to after this tournament and next year, I don't know," she said. "I'm just going to take things day-by-day."

"I wouldn't say I'm in tip-top shape, but I feel good enough to break the ice. I'm not even thinking about winning or losing. Who the opponent is doesn't really matter. I just want to have fun out there."

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AP/NANINE HARTZENBUSCH

Meilen Tu returns ball during her 6-1, 6-3 first-round upset of Amanda Coetzer in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tourney.

Coetzer ousted in 1st round

16-year-old Tu pulls upset in Virginia Slims tourney

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Meilen Tu, a 16-year-old high school student from Northridge, Calif., upset Amanda Coetzer 6-1, 6-3 Monday in the opening round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Coetzer is seeded No. 8 and is ranked No. 16 in the world. Last year the South African won tournaments in Australia and Japan, but was able to win only one service game in this match — the fourth game of the second set.

A long deuce battle ensued in the ninth game of the second set between the two, each using a two-handed backhand. Tu closed the match when Coetzer hit a lob out of court.

"I knew if I played well, I'd have a chance," Tu said. "I knew she was a little bit nervous because I came out playing pretty well. I was attacking right away. I didn't give her any errors."

Said Coetzer: "I felt in the second set I could play back."

No. 2 seed Mary Pierce advanced to the second round with a 6-0, 6-1 rout of Tatiana Ignatiava of Belarussie, Russia.

Pierce won the first eight games and then ran out the contest from 2-1 in the second set. Ignatiava, ranked 112th in the world, double-faulted on the final point.

Earlier, Joannette Kruger of South Africa defeated Shaun Stafford 6-3, 6-3, and Kimberly Po eliminated Maria Alejandro Vento of Venezuela 6-4, 1-6, 7-5.

Defending champion Conchita Martinez of Spain is the top seed in the \$750,000 tournament, which continues through Sunday at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

In first-round doubles, the second-seeded team of Patty Fendick of Tahoe Village, Nev., and Meredith McGrath of Midland, Mich., defeated Amy Frazier of Rochester Hills, Mich., and Kimberly Po of Rolling Hills, Calif., 6-1, 6-3.

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AP/NANETTE KARDASZESKI

Jennifer Capriati grins during a practice session Tuesday for her scheduled match tonight.

Capriati holds court ...

By TOM COBOURN

Staff reporter

PHILADELPHIA — Scenes from the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tennis championships:

It's 2:30 Tuesday afternoon and the tournament's defending champion and reigning Wimbledon queen, Conchita Martinez, is swapping strokes on a practice court with possibly the best doubles player in the world, Gigi Fernandez.

The room — actually a beautifully converted train shed, part of the new Pennsylvania Convention Center — also contains a VIP dining area, where fans have a close-up view of these players casually at play.

A troupe of electronic media members is ushered in alongside one court, followed by the print reporters, who are instructed to stay some 25 feet from the courts. This peep show is carefully orchestrated by WTA Tour staffers, wearing badges and carrying walkie-talkies.

So what's wrong with this picture? Really wrong?

All this secret service stuff, all the

SLIMS SCHEDULE

Beginning at 9 a.m.

Heatherington/Stafford vs. McNeil/Stubbs
Chandra Rubin vs. Erika de Lone
Brenda Schultz vs. Pam Shriver
Conchita Martinez (1) vs. Nathalie Tauziat
Lindsay Davenport (3) vs. Tami Whitlinger-Jones
Katerina Maleeva vs. Zina Garrison-Jackson
Werdel/Whitlinger-Jones vs. Sabatini/Schultz

7 p.m.

Jennifer Capriati vs. Anke Huber (6)
G.Fernandez/Zvereva vs. Bollegraf/Garrison-Jackson

media attention, all the stares from the tennis patrons is not directed at Martinez.

It's for Jennifer Capriati, who in the last 14 months has been arrested for shoplifting and drug possession and has not played a tennis match. This is her grand return to tennis and, like it or not, it's an event.

The media is instructed that it can catch a quick glimpse of the former ten-

nis darling, just don't feed her any questions. She's only talking after matches, and then only about her tennis. In fact, the quotes now in newspapers come from a sheet supplied by the WTA.

Capriati doesn't play her first match until tonight at 7. Considering the long layoff and her opening opponent, sixth-seeded Anke Huber of Germany, it could well be her only match.

"I'm not even thinking about winning or losing," she says, via quote sheet. "Who the opponent is doesn't really matter. I just want to have fun out there."

If the 18-year-old does win, then she continues to be the overriding story of the tournament. Her next match would be against local star Lisa Raymond of Wayne, Pa. Until she loses, it's a one-woman show.

It's very similar to last week's tour event in Oakland, when 14-year-old African-American Venus Williams made her pro debut. Williams won one match before losing a three-setter to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the world's No. 2 player. Until that point, it didn't really matter that Martina Navratilova was

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sort of

Capriati: Makes tennis return tonight

FROM PAGE C1

playing in her next-to-last tournament before retiring from the tour.

But this is how Capriati and her agent, Barb Perry (also the tournament director), feel is the most comfortable way to get back into the game.

All seemed right with the world when Capriati played her first pro match before her 14th birthday and set numerous age records, had a crush on Bart Simpson and was the smiling, giggling school-girl. Somewhere along the way, she succumbed to the pressure and fame and became the perfect argument against girls turning pro so young.

She left the sport last year as a very depressed teen-ager. Now, the Capriati camp is trying to head off any emotional flashbacks as she tries to get on with her life and her tennis, a year older and 10 years wiser.

"She's a regular girl and a great tennis player," said Jose Higuera. "I just hope to see her out there playing and happy again. [The Huber match] will be a good match for the crowd to enjoy and hope-

fully she plays well. If those things happen, it doesn't really matter what the outcome is."

Higuera says he is not Capriati's coach, though his role the past month has been very coach-like. They crossed paths at a tennis club in Palm Springs, Fla., and have hit together for the past month. Higuera is Jim Courier's coach and works with the USTA program, but he has accompanied her here as a practice partner.

Higuera has been the closest link to the silent Capriati prior to her first match, and while he fills in some gray areas, he also avoids controversy. Asked if Capriati's father — a source of her discontent last year — is still her coach, he replied: "Well, I don't know." Was he at the club when Higuera hit with Capriati? "I don't

know."

Whatever, this is the last tournament of the year aside from the Virginia Slims Championships in New York, which Capriati obviously did not qualify for. So Capriati will play tonight, maybe again this week, then step back to see where she is at this point and go from there.

"In regards to after this tournament and next year," the sheet quoted Capriati, "I don't know. I'm just going to take these things day by day."

DROP SHOTS: Lori McNeil, who reached the semifinals of Wimbledon this year, withdrew because of tendinitis in the right shoulder. She was replaced by Mercedes Paz of Argentina, who lost Tuesday morning to Bostonian Erika de Lone 6-3, 6-2.

See CAPRIATI — C6

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PHILADELPHIA SLIMS TENNIS

Rubin knocks off Frazier

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Chanda Rubin, hitting powerfully from the backcourt, upset No. 7 seed Amy Frazier 6-1, 6-1 Tuesday in the first round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

No. 4 Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina overcame 11 double-faults to defeat Jana Nedjedy of Canada 6-4, 6-1 in a night match.

Tonight, Jennifer Capriati will play her first match in more than a year when she faces No. 6 Anke Huber of Germany. Top seed and defending champion Conchita Martinez of Spain will begin her defense of the title against Nathalie Tauziat of France.

Frazier was unable to cope with the speed and power of Rubin's driving shots in the 43-minute

match. Rubin won the first set on the second set point on a netted shot by Frazier.

Frazier set up match point at 5-1 in the second set by double-faulting. Rubin then ended the match with a swift cross-court passing shot.

Rubin next will face Erika de Lone, who advanced with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Mercedes Paz of Argentina. Paz was a replacement for Lori McNeil, who withdrew from the tournament because of shoulder tendinitis.

Nedjedy broke for a 3-1 first-set lead but Sabatini won seven straight games to move from a 4-3 deficit to a 4-0 lead in the second set. Nedjedy lost match point by netting a backhand volley.

In other matches, No. 5 Natalia Zvereva of Belarus defeated Mere-

dith McGrath 6-4, 6-4; Patty Fendick beat Marianne Werdel 6-2, 6-4; and Julie Halard of France prevailed over Linda Harvey-Wild 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Fendick won the first set with a passing shot for a break. Werdel fought off three match points in the second set, then yielded on the fourth match point.

McGrath lost her service in the 10th game of the second set, losing the match on the second match point with a cross-court backhand drive over the baseline.

The key to Halard's victory was the fourth game of the third set in which Harvey-Wild double-faulted twice, the second time on game point, to fall behind 3-1. Halard won in the ninth game on the second match point.

Philadelphia Slims

Singles

First Round

Chanda Rubin, Lafayette, La., def. Amy Frazier (7), Rochester Hills, Mich., 6-1, 6-1.
Patty Fendick, Tahoe Village, Nev., def. Marianne Werdel, San Diego, 6-2, 6-4.
Erika de Lone, Lincoln, Mass., def. Mercedes Paz, Argentina, 6-3, 6-2.
Natalia Zvereva (5), Belarus, def. Meredith McGrath, Midland, Mich., 6-4, 6-4.
Julie Halard, France, def. Linda Harvey-Wild, Hawthorn Woods, Ill., 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.
Gabriela Sabatini (4), Argentina, def. Jana Nedjedy, Canada, 6-4, 6-1.

Doubles

First Round

Conchita Martinez, Spain and Patricia Tarabini, Argentina, def. Katarina Maleeva, Bulgaria, and Robin White, Del Mar, Calif., 6-4, 6-0.
Amanda Coetzer, South Africa, and Debbie Graham, Fountain Valley, Calif., def. Julie Halard and Nathalie Tauziat, France, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4).

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Davenport upset by Schultz serves

No. 3 seed can't handle Schultz power

By BUCKY GLEASON

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Brenda Schultz, ripping off serves of more than 105 mph, defeated Lindsay Davenport 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 Thursday in the second round of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Schultz powered her way past the third seed, who is among the hardest baseline hitters on the women's tour.

"I knew the only way to beat Lindsay was to hit harder than she does," Schultz said. "If she starts hitting hard and cranking it up, she'll hit winners all over the place."

Jennifer Capriati pulled out of doubles competition after sustaining a sore right shoulder during her first singles match in more than a year.

Capriati was to play with Mercedes Paz against Pam Shriver and Elizabeth Smylie in a first-round match. On Wednesday, Capriati lost 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 to Anke Huber in singles.

In other second-round singles matches Thursday, No. 2 seed Mary Pierce struggled early before winning 10 of the last 11 games en route to a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Patty Fendick.

Pierce will next play 16-year-old newcomer Meilen Tu, who defeated Katerina Maleeva 6-4, 6-3. Tu, a wild-card entry from Northridge, Calif., won for the second time on the tour to advance to the quarterfinals.

No. 4 Gabriela Sabatini got off to a slow start before beating Joannette Kruger 6-4, 6-0. Sabatini will play Chanda Rubin in the quarters.

Schultz, clocked with the hardest serve at 113 mph earlier this year, hit two aces in the final game of the match to win the match. She won the last two sets after Davenport showed effective strokes in winning the first

set.

Schultz hit consecutive aces early in the third set, prompting a frustrated Davenport to scream, "Get me out of here." The 18-year-old Californian took a 3-2 lead in the third, but was broken at 4-4 before Schultz served for the match.

"You try to weather the storm," Davenport said. "You just try to get balls back in. I couldn't do that."

Schultz, 23, of the Netherlands, also got easy points when Davenport made returns. Schultz used her powerful forehand down the line after being set up by Davenport's weak lobs.

Fendick had a 3-2 lead in the first set before Pierce won four straight games. Pierce then attacked Fendick's serve in the second set and won the final point with a powerful backhand down the line.

Pierce, ranked fifth in the world, remains the highest seed in the tournament after top-seeded Conchita Martinez was knocked out in the first round.

Nathalie Tuziat, who beat Martinez in her first match, was eliminated by Kimberly Po 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 less than 18 hours after her upset victory. Po won the final two games and beat Tuziat with a backhand lob at match point.

"I wasn't expecting her to have a letdown, but I was hoping she would," Po said. "It's hard when you beat Conchita, and then you have to play ... me."

Results

Singles

Second Round

Kimberly Po, Rolling Hills, Calif., def. Nathalie Tuziat, France, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5.

Mary Pierce (2), France, def. Patty Fendick, Tahoe Village, Nev., 6-3, 6-1.

Brenda Schultz, Netherlands, def. Lindsay Davenport (3), Palos Verdes, Calif., 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Gabriela Sabatini, Argentina, def. Joannette Kruger, South Africa, 6-4, 6-0.

Meilen Tu, Northridge, Calif., def. Katerina Maleeva, Bulgaria, 6-4, 6-3.

Natalia Zvereva (5), Belarus, def. ...

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PHILADELPHIA SLIMS TENNIS



AP/NANINE HARTZENBUSCH

Gabriela Sabatini hits a shot on the way to victory over Joannette Kruger.

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Capriati pulls out of doubles

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jennifer Capriati withdrew from the doubles in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia Thursday because of a sore right shoulder.

■ Davenport upset in Slims ... C4

Capriati was scheduled to play with Mercedes Paz against third-seeded Pam Shriver and Elizabeth Smylie in a first-round match. On Wednesday, Capriati played

her first tournament match in more than a year, losing 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 to Anke Huber.

Tournament officials were not sure of the severity of the injury and did not know when Capriati would begin playing competitively again. They said her shoulder became sore from playing against Huber.

Capriati previously was plagued by injuries and personal problems since leaving the women's tour. A pulled groin muscle kept her out of the European Indoors.

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Pierce too much for Tu in gaining Slims semis

PAOONIN Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Second-seeded Mary Pierce jumped to big leads in each set Friday and beat newcomer Meilen Tu 6-2, 6-4 to reach the semifinals of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Pierce, fighting a head cold, surrendered just three points in the first three games of the first set and just four in the first three games of the second set.

"I feel I'm playing well considering how I feel," Pierce said. "It's always tough when you're not feeling well because it's hard to stay focused, and you get tired more easily."

Also advancing to the semifinals were No. 5 Natalia Zvereva, who beat Brenda Schultz 6-1, 7-6, Anke Huber, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Kimberly Po, and Gabriela Sabatini, who defeated Chanda Rubin, 6-3, 6-0.

Tu, ranked 604th in the world, broke Pierce's serve to draw within 5-4 in the second set, but Pierce broke back with a powerful backhand at match point. Pierce has lost just 11 games in her first three matches.

The 16-year-old Tu, of Northridge, Calif., was a wild-card entrant and had played just 10 professional matches before facing the No. 5 women's player. It was the second time Tu reached the quarterfinals of a tournament.

"It was just another match — no big deal," Tu said. "If you start thinking you can't play with those players, it can get a little overwhelming."

Pierce, the top remaining seed in the tournament, went up 3-0 in the first set before Tu drew within 3-2. Pierce capitalized when Tu double-faulted on her next two service games.

Pierce next will play Zvereva, who had few problems with Schultz's powerful serve in the first set and won five of the first six points in a second-set tiebreaker.

Zvereva, who has not lost a set in the tournament, broke Schultz twice in the first set. The two stayed on serve in the second until Schultz hit into the net to give Zvereva a 3-1 lead in the tiebreaker.

Schultz, the most powerful server on the women's tour, had 12 aces but double-faulted at match point. Zvereva won the tiebreaker 7-4.

Huber used her relentless groundstrokes and took advantage of Po's sloppiness. Huber grabbed a 4-1 lead with a forehand smash in the second set. Three games later, she broke Po's serve for the victory.

"She made a lot of easy mistakes," Huber said. "I thought after the first set, I could win each game. I was confident I would win the match."

Huber has had perhaps the toughest route into the semifinals. She had to overcome the return of Jennifer Capriati in the first round, was stretched to three sets by local star Lisa Raymond in a match that ended near midnight and returned to beat Po Friday afternoon.

Huber will play Sabatini in the semifinals today. Sabatini committed eight double-faults in the first set before settling down in the second.

Friday's results

Singles Quarterfinals

Natalia Zvereva (5), Belarus, def. Brenda Schultz, Netherlands, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4).
Anke Huber (6), Germany, def. Kimberly Po, Incline Village, Nev., 6-3, 6-2.
Mary Pierce (2), France, def. Meilen Tu, Northridge, Calif., 6-2, 6-4.
Gabriela Sabatini (4), Argentina, def. Chanda Rubin, Lafayette, La., 6-3, 6-0.

TENNIS



AP/CHRIS GARDNER

Mary Pierce of France returns a shot to Meilen Tu of Northridge, Calif., during their quarterfinal round match Friday in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

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Huber tops Pierce to win Slims

By BUCKY GLEASON

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA

— Anke Huber played the best set of her career and hung on to defeat Mary Pierce 6-0, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5 for the championship of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Huber nearly blew a 4-0 lead in the third set before she settled down for her third victory of the season. The 19-year-old German won the final two games in the third set and broke Pierce's serve with a forehand to win the tournament.

"She pushed me," Huber said. "She was always there, and she never gave up. I just tried to play my game, and it worked out."

Huber, who earned \$150,000, has won two tournaments and is ranked 13th in the world despite not having a coach since September. She also beat Pierce in the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in Germany last month.

Huber had the most difficult route to the final. She had three-set victories over Jennifer Capriati and Lisa Raymond, beat Kimberly Po in two sets and Gabriela Sabatini in three sets before facing the second-seeded Pierce.

"I'm much more comfortable on the court, and I think I have much more fun out there," Huber said. "I just take it more easy, and I relax



AP/RUSTY KENNEDY

Anke Huber slams a backhand during her victory Sunday in the Virginia Slims.

more on the court."

Pierce, ranked fifth, earned \$67,500 for second place. She is winless in five finals this year, and has not beaten Huber in three career matches.

Pierce hammered a 97-mph ace and won three straight games to make it 5-5 in the third set. She fought off three match points earlier before Huber put her away.

"I really felt that I had a chance to win the match," Pierce said. "It's really tough to lose a match like that because I was down practically the whole match. It's just too bad that I went that far and lost those last two games."

Pierce had not lost a set until Huber played nearly flawless tennis in winning the first set in 22 minutes.

Huber lost only six service points in the first set and lost only eight points in the first five games.

Huber kept Pierce running along the baseline with deep returns and hit winners with cross-court forehands.

"She was running around like she didn't know where to go, what to do and where to play," Huber said.

Huber looked like she would win easily when she went up 2-0 in the second set, but Pierce came back with an assortment of drop shots and forehand winners.

Pierce made it 4-4 when Huber double-faulted. Pierce won the second set tiebreaker when Huber committed her sixth double-fault and hit a forehand long.

In the doubles final, top-seeded Gigi Fernandez and Natalia Zvereva defeated Gabriela Sabatini and Brenda Schultz, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. Fernandez and Zvereva shared \$45,000, while Sabatini and Schultz shared \$22,500.

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DATELINE: DELCO

Raymond saves best for last in opener

By DENNIS DEITCH

Of the Times Staff

PHILADELPHIA — The match appeared to be over enough times.

Ten minutes into her opening-round match of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tennis tournament at the Philadelphia Convention Center last night, it looked as if Wayne's Lisa Raymond would have plenty of time to visit her family and friends.

But that's why Raymond and opponent Sandra Cacic were hitting tennis balls over the net, rather than throwing horseshoes or hand grenades.

And that was why — despite the fact she looked overmatched when Cacic won the first four games of the first set; even though she stormed to a four-game lead to kick off the third set; although she faced a match point in the second set ... Raymond didn't put "almost" six-feet under until she planted a backhand neatly in the right corner and sent her hometown crowd home happy courtesy of a 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-5 win.

"I didn't want to lose in the first round in my hometown," Raymond said, fighting a losing battle with a scratchy throat afterward. "And that was in my head, even though I know it's something I should block out."

If a little water splashed in the kisser was what Raymond needed to break out of the early jitters, then Cacic's 4-0 start was like drinking out of a fire hose.

"She came out playing real well," said Raymond. "And, to be honest, as a whole I didn't feel real confident out there."

Although she somewhat snapped out of the daze caused by the early attack by Cacic, Raymond dropped the first set.

The second set, however, was where the see-saw ride began, with both players battling wits and forehands from end line to end line. When Raymond strung together a couple of her 11 aces, she followed up with one of her seven double faults.

Cacic obliged at the other end, as her aggressive forehand wallops that seemed to pass through the net in the first set began to lose their slight of hand.

Still, after each lady broke the other three times in the second set, all of the bounces canceled, which left a tie-breaker to decide Raymond's fate.

When a weak backhand by Raymond didn't clear the net, Cacic was ahead, 6-5, with a chance to finish it on her serve. But the 20-year-old Florida native hit a forehand long, then duffed a backhand to put the ball in Raymond's court.

She wouldn't miss the chance, uncorking a searing backhand down the baseline to force a third and final set.

When Raymond won 16 of the next 19 points and took a 4-0 advantage, it was over.

Not.

Cacic suddenly found her groundstrokes and won the next five games, putting Raymond on the brink.

But Raymond broke serve in the 10th game, then saved her best serve for the best time as a 92-mile per hour BB hit the middle line for an ace and a 6-5 Raymond lead. At wit's end, Cacic made three unforced errors to set up the backhand that would, finally, end it.

VIRGINIA SLIMS

Jennifer is back

■ Troubled Capriati practices for match in Philly tomorrow night. Page 57.

Now, Raymond will watch with keen interest as she sees if she will play perhaps the only player receiving a higher raise of the eyebrow from the stands than herself, Jennifer Capriati. First, Capriati must get past sixth-seed Anke Huber.

"I think you forget how talented (Capriati) is," said Raymond, who won't have long to dissect her singles performance, since she and Lindsay Davenport make up the fourth-seeded doubles team that takes on Vicky Paynter and Karine Quentrec in the first round tonight.

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It didn't take long for a big upset to hit as eighth-seed Amanda Coetzer, the 16th-ranked player in the world, was thrashed by 16-year-old Meilen Tu of Northridge, Cal., 6-1, 6-3 early yesterday afternoon. Tu, who was ranked 604th in the world entering the tournament, is playing in only the fifth tournament of her career. At the Bank of the West Classic last week in Oakland, Tu dropped a 6-3, 6-4 decision to 34th-ranked Meredith McGrath in the opening round. Yesterday, Tu needed just 69 minutes to defeat the South African. Tu showed a great amount of poise in a pair of long games in the second set,

including the match-clinching game in which she fell behind 0-30 before hanging on for the win. Tu, who won the USTA National Girls 18s Championship to earn a spot in the U.S. Open, plays the winner of the match between Katerina Maleeva and Zina Garrison-Jackson ... If the opening day of action was any indication, second-seed Mary Pierce could be the player to beat. The American-born Frenchwoman thumped Tatiana Ignatieva, 6-0, 6-1. Pierce needed only 18 minutes to win the first set, which is about two minutes faster than it takes to find a parking spot outside the Convention Center. At least the swift loss gave Ignatieva, a native of Belarus, enough time to catch the last tour of Independence Hall. Thanks to Coetzer's early exit, Pierce has no chance of facing a seeded opponent until the semis ... In other action, Joannette Kruger of South Africa will most likely face fourth-seed Gabriela Sabatini after defeating Shaun Stafford, 6-3, 6-3. The Argentine beauty will kick off her tournament tomorrow night when she takes on Jana Nejedly ... Kimberly Po had by far the busiest day of any player. The unseeded 23-year-old was on the court for one hour, 48 minutes before outlasting Maria Vento in three sets, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5. The Rolling Hills, Cal. native shook hands with Vento at 12:30 in the afternoon, but she had barely enough time to shower before she and doubles partner Amy Frazier had to take the court against the second-seeded tandem of Patty Fendick and Meredith McGrath at 2:05 p.m. Fendick and McGrath needed only 56 minutes to move into the quarterfinals with a 6-1, 6-3 win.

2042835809

Capriati practices, will play tomorrow night

By MIKE KOLLER
Of The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A relaxed but unsmiling Jennifer Capriati returned quietly to a tournament practice court yesterday, concentrating more on her forehand than the people watching her.

The 18-year-old who lost interest in tennis more than a year ago was all business at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, ignoring a crowd watching her as she returned balls to new coach Jose Higuera.

Capriati has a first-round match tomorrow night (7 p.m.) against No. 6 seed Anke Huber in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. It is her first appearance in professional tennis since leaving the game and battling a host of

personal problems, including drug addiction.

But yesterday, Capriati looked like she wanted to play again. She returned serves with powerful forehands for more than 30 minutes without a break, stopping occasionally to wipe her forehead.

"I wouldn't say I'm in tip-top shape, but I feel good enough to break the ice," Capriati said in a five-paragraph statement, declining interviews. "I'm not even thinking about winning or losing. Who the opponent is doesn't really matter. I just want to have fun out there."

Capriati fought her way into the pros at age 13 before leaving the game, citing burnout and injuries. A year ago she was arrested for shoplifting and last May was charged with marijuana possession at a hotel in Coral Gables,

TENNIS

Fla. She entered a drug rehabilitation center soon afterward.

She said she began practicing seriously in August and had intended to return last month before pulling a muscle.

"In regards to after this tournament and next year I don't know," she said. "I'm just going to take things day by day."

Her colleagues welcomed her return.

"I think it's great, she's always been great for tennis," said Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, a 6-1, 6-3 loser to Meilen Tu in the first round yesterday. "She's been pretty responsible, from what we hear on the courts, the last

few months. She's pretty responsible, she's a fighter."

Capriati's problems set off a debate on the wisdom of allowing players just entering their teens to join the pro tennis tour. Tu, 16, said it would be a mistake to close the ranks to such youngsters.

"There's a lot of mature 14-year-olds out there," Tu said between nervous giggles. "If you're independent, you look at things a different way and not let what people say bother you. People can be really cruel, especially when you lose."

Capriati has a tough first-round opponent in Huber. The 19-year-old defeated Martina Navratilova and Mary Pierce last month on her way to winning the Porsche Grand Prix in Germany.

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SCOREBOARD

DELAWARE COUNTY'S SPORTS AUTHORITY

November 8, 1994

SPORTS

Tuesday

TENNIS

PHILADELPHIA SLIMS

PHILADELPHIA — Results in the \$750,000 Slims of Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Convention Center (seedings in parentheses):

Singles

First Round

Lisa Raymond, Wayne, Pa., def. Sandra Cicic, Bradenton, Fla., 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-5.
Mellen Tu, Northridge, Calif., def. Amanda Coetzer (8), South Africa, 6-1, 6-3.
Joannette Kruger, South Africa, def. Shaun Stafford, Gainesville, Fla., 6-3, 6-3.
Kimberly Po, Rolling Hills, Calif., def. Maria Alejandro Vento, Venezuela, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5.
Mary Pierce (2), France, def. Taliana Ignatieva, Belarus, 6-0, 6-1.

2042835811

Rubin takes out Frazier in Slims

Times staff and wire reports

PHILADELPHIA — Chanda Rubin overwhelmed seventh seed Amy Frazier 6-1, 6-1 yesterday with sustained power hitting from back court in the first round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Frazier was unable to cope with the speed and power of Rubin's driving in the 43-minute match. The unseeded Rubin won the first set on the second set point on a netted shot by Frazier.

Frazier set up match point at 5-1 in the second set by serving a double fault. Rubin then ended the match with a swift cross-court passing shot from her two-handed backhand.

Rubin next will face Erika de Lone, who advanced with a 6-3, 6-2 win over

and I have been getting greater speed from it," Sabatini said of her serving problems.

"I don't think I was playing bad, but she was playing very good and she was very fast, and I had to play very well to beat her."

In other matches, fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva of Belarus defeated Meredith McGrath 6-4, 6-4; Patty Fendick beat Marianne Werdel 6-2, 6-4; and Julie Halard of France prevailed over Linda Harvey-Wild 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Fendick won the first set with a passing shot for a breakthrough of service. Werdel fought off three match points in a tense game of the second set, then yielded on the fourth match point.

McGrath lost her service in the 10th game of the second set, losing the match on the second match-point with a cross-court backhand drive over the baseline.

The key to Halard's victory was the fourth game of the third set in which Harvey-Wild double-faulted twice, the second time on game point, to fall behind 3-1. Halard won in the ninth game on the second match point when Harvey-Wild overdrove the baseline.

In first-round doubles last night, Conchita Martinez of Spain and Patricia Tarabini of Argentina defeated Katarina Maleeva of Bulgaria and Robin White of Del Mar, Calif., 6-4, 6-0, and Amanda Coetzer, South Africa, and Debbie Graham of Fountain Valley, Calif., defeated Julie Halard and Nathalie Tauziat of France, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4).

Tonight, Jennifer Capriati will play her first match in more than a year when she faces sixth-seeded Anke Huber of Germany. Top seed and defending champion Martinez will begin her defense of the title today against Tauziat.

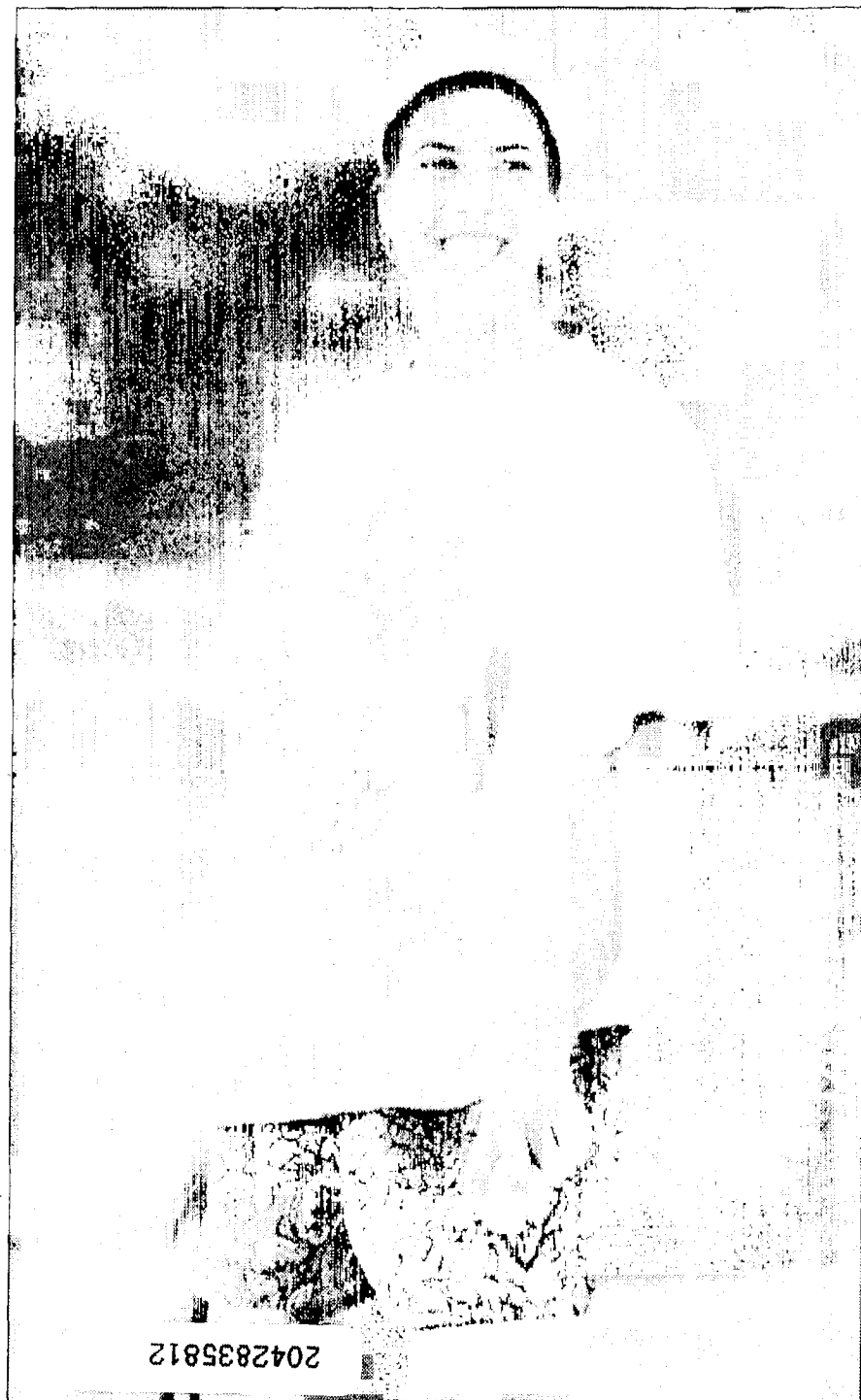
TENNIS

Mercedes Paz of Argentina. Paz was a replacement for Lori McNeil, who withdrew from the tournament in the morning because of right shoulder tendinitis.

Fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina overcame 11 double faults to defeat Jana Nejedly of Canada 6-4, 6-1 in a night match.

Nejedly broke Sabatini early for a 3-1 first-set lead. But Sabatini won seven straight games to move from a 3-4 deficit to a 4-0 lead in the second set. Nejedly lost match point by netting a backhand volley.

"Well, I've been trying a new service



Back on the court, Jennifer Capriati gets in some practice time at the Convention Center before her match tonight in the Virginia Slims.

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SCOREBOARD

TENNIS

Virginia Slims of Phila.

Singles

First Round

Chanda Rubin, Lafayette, La., def. Amy Frazier (7),
Rochester Hills, Mich., 6-1, 6-1.

Patty Fendick, Tahoe Village, Nev., def. Marianne Wer-
del, San Diego, 6-2, 6-4.

Erika de Lone, Lincoln, Mass., def. Mercedes Paz,
Argentina, 6-3, 6-2.

Natalia Zvereva (5), Belarus, def. Meredith McGrath,
Midland, Mich., 6-4, 6-4.

Julie Halard, France, def. Linda Harvey-Wild, Hawthorn
Woods, Ill., 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Gabriela Sabatini (4), Argentina, def. Jana Nejedly,
Canada, 6-4, 6-1.

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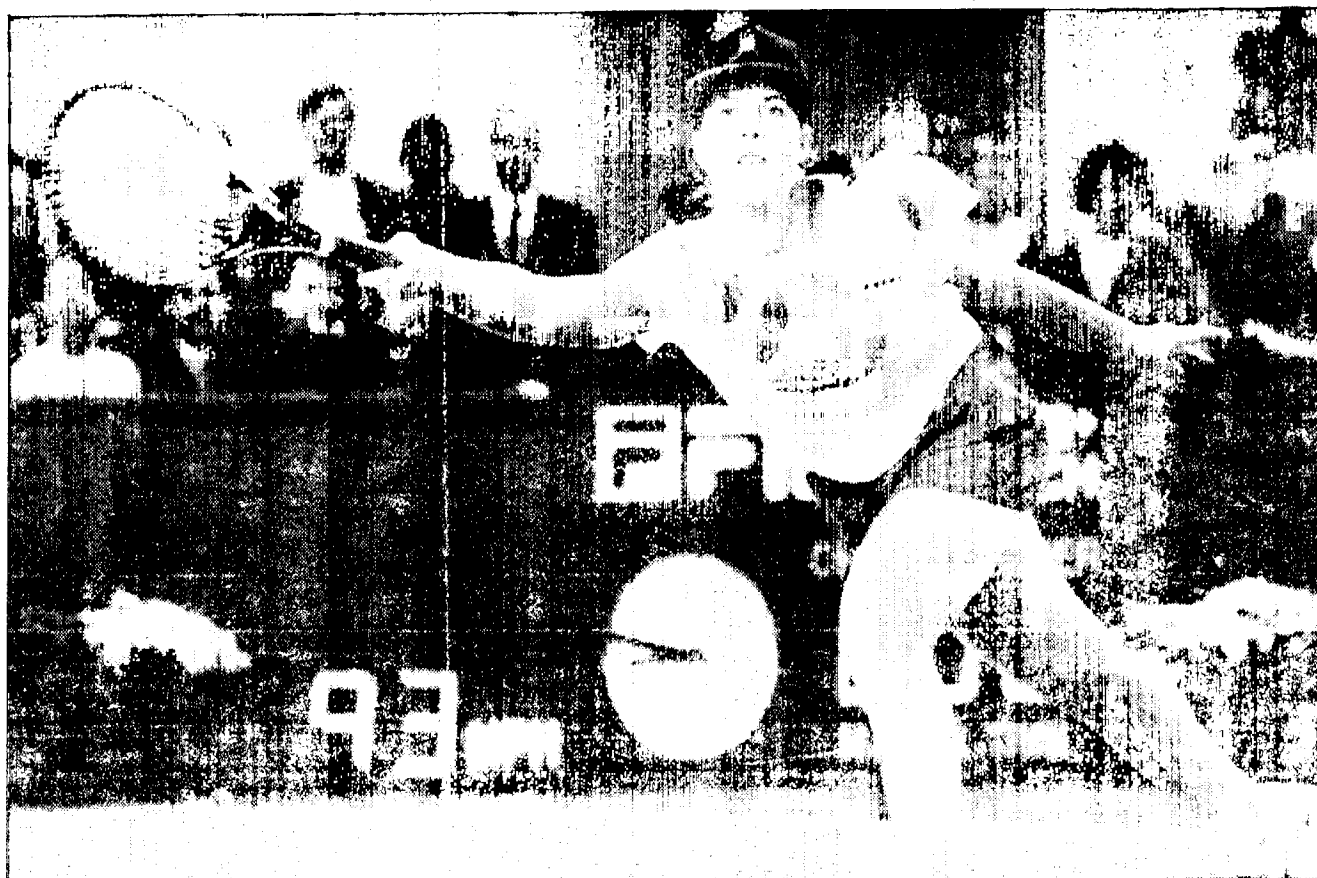
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DELAWARE COUNTY
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Delaware Co.
TIMES

Capriati makes another early exit



Troubled 18-year-old Jennifer Capriati made her return to professional tennis last night in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia — and lost her opening match to Anka Huber.

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By DENNIS DEITCH

Of the Times Staff

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PHILADELPHIA — She walked on the court, head down and eyes hidden beneath her red and blue cap.

No one knew what to expect from the former sixth ranked player in the world when she took the court for her long-awaited return to tennis in the first round of the Philadelphia Virginia Slims Tournament last night.

But a smile was visible under her hat as the fans gave her a standing ovation

VIRGINIA SLIMS

when she sheepishly walked on the court. One hour, 29 minutes later, the brim of the cap faced forward and the grin was back, even though she had just dropped the match, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 to sixth-seed Anka Huber.

She walked off the court to cheers, as well, took 15 minutes to get changed and ... then came the hardest part.

Jennifer, meet the press.

"I felt a lot of support from people and that everyone was excited," said Capriati.

Still, she looked less than anxious to talk about her 14-month hiatus from the sport, caused by her messing with first shoplifting, then drugs, and ending after a stay at the Betty Ford Center.

That finally past, albeit very recent history, Capriati sat in front of the gaggle of reporters as if it were a firing squad.

With the exception of a few English accents from prime time gossip shows,

though, the questions were more of the peashooter variety than machine gun.

"I think I learned that I really love this sport," Capriati said. "And that it doesn't matter whether I win or lose."

For now, she'll have to settle for a loss, although it was at times difficult to tell she hadn't picked up a racket for nine months before this tournament.

She immediately broke the ice and Huber's serve in the opening game, although Huber would return the favor on Capriati's first chance at serving. Both players played the match baseline-to-baseline, no holds barred. Capriati's backhand seemed to be rust-free, although her serve and forehand were a bit inconsistent as she lost the first set.

In the second set, a combination of hustle by Capriati and a shaky serve by Huber gave the 18-year-old a 4-0 lead. After Huber cut the lead to 5-3, Capriati broke her opponent's serve, as she chased down a drop shot and deftly placed it crosscourt to bring the crowd to its feet.

The running, however, took its toll.

"Yeah, I could feel myself getting tired in the third set," she said. "I'm not in tip-top shape, but I really wasn't that bad. She just played well."

It was the first time in five meetings Huber had defeated Capriati, although she was one of the last to know the City of Brotherly Love was where the comeback trail would begin.

"I thought she received the ball real

well," Huber said. "But I didn't know she was going to be playing here. When they said I was playing her, I said, 'What? She's playing?'"

"I didn't expect to see her until next year."

Capriati said the decision to return at the end of the season was quite simple.

"I just wanted to start playing again," she said. "The end of the year didn't mean anything. I just wanted to get out there."

Capriati's big adventure began in September of 1993 when she was defeated in the first round of the U.S. Open by Leila Meskhi. In October, she was shelved for the remainder of the season with bone chips in her right elbow. With plenty of free time on her hands, the then 17-year-old was caught lifting a \$20 pair of earrings in December.

Soon after, her father/coach — not necessarily in order of importance — Stefano, announced that Capriati was burned out and was going to take a leave of absence for an undetermined amount of time.

In May, the public found out the once-tennis darling had regressed from burned out to burnt. Capriati had moved out of her parents' home, and soon after a man was pulled over driving her car possessing drugs. Police were led to a hotel, where Capriati was found and charged with marijuana possession. The police photo, showing an almost unrecognizable Capriati with both her bright eyes and athletic build

swollen, caused many in the tennis world to speak out against the current, 14-year-old age requirement for players to turn professional.

Capriati entered a drug rehab center and her father swore to alleviate the pressure he put on his daughter. In August, she began practicing in earnest for a comeback, one that was to take place last month, but was postponed until Philadelphia by a pulled muscle.

Quite a saga for an 18-year-old.

But, she says, in her eyes, that page is turned.

"Yes, I've put that behind me," Capriati said. "What happened in the past is in the past."

"What's important to me now? My friends, my family, my dog. Things that make me happy."

As for last night, what seemed to make her the most happy was hitting a tennis ball ... and getting that press conference over with.

NOTES: The return of Capriati stole yesterday's spotlight from Nathalie Tauziat, who unceremoniously dumped top-seed and No. 3-ranked player in the world Conchita Martinez out of the tournament with a 6-4, 6-4 win in the first round. The 27-year-old veteran of the tour broke Martinez's serve in the seventh game of both sets. She will face Kimberly Po in the second round, with the winner of that match meeting the Huber-Lisa Raymond winner in the quarterfinals.

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**VIRGINIA
SLIMS**

Schultz provides shocker

Times staff and wire reports

LOON

PHILADELPHIA — Scratch one more interesting name — this time Lindsay Davenport — from the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia women's tennis tournament.

But continue to include stars Mary Pierce and Gabriela Sabatini, who won matches yesterday.

Last night, Brenda Schultz, rattling serves of more than 105 mph, defeated Davenport, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4, in the second round of the tournament.

Schultz powered her way past the third seed, among the hardest baseline hitters on the women's tour.

"I knew the only way to beat Lindsay was to hit harder than she does," Schultz said. "If she starts hitting hard and cranking it up, she'll hit winners all over the place."

Jennifer Capriati pulled out of doubles competition with a sore right shoulder following her first singles match in more than a year.

Capriati was to play with Mercedes Paz against Pam Shriver and Elizabeth Smylie in a first-round match. On Wednesday, Capriati lost 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 to Anke Huber.

In another second-round singles matches, No. 2 Mary Pierce won 10 of the last 11 games en route to a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Patty Fendick. Pierce will next play 16-year-old newcomer Meilen Tu, who defeated Katerina Maleeva 6-4, 6-3. Tu, a wild-card entry from Northridge, Calif., won for the second time on the tour to advance to the quarterfinals.

No. 4 Gabriela Sabatini got off to a slow start before beating Joannette Kruger 6-4, 6-0. Sabatini will play Chanda Rubin in the quarters.

Schultz, clocked with the hardest serve at 113 mph earlier this year, had two aces in the final game of the third

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Mary Pierce is a study in determination as she returns the ball to Patty Fendick yesterday during a victory at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia Tournament.

set to win the match. She won the last three games in the last two sets after Davenport showed effective ground strokes in winning the first set.

Schultz had consecutive aces early in the third set, prompting the frustrated Davenport to scream, "Get me out of here!" The 18-year-old Californian took a 3-2 lead in the third but was broken at 4-4 before Schultz served for the match.

"You try to weather the storm," Davenport said. "You just try to get balls back in. I couldn't do that."

Schultz, 23, of the Netherlands, also got easy points when Davenport made returns. Schultz used her powerful forehand down the line after being set up by Davenport's weak lobs.

"It was hurting my wrist when I touched it," Davenport said. "The ball

would bounce off my racket, and my hand would just bend back."

Schultz will play fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva in the next round. Zvereva defeated Julie Halard, 6-1, 6-4, yesterday.

Fendick had a 3-2 lead in the first set before Pierce won four straight games. Pierce then attacked Fendick's serve in the second set and won the final point with a powerful backhand down the line.

Pierce, ranked fifth in the world, remains the highest seed in the tournament after top-seeded Conchita Martinez was knocked out in the first round.

Nathalie Tauziat, who beat Martinez in her first match, was eliminated by Kimberly Po 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 less than 18 hours after her upset victory. Po won the final two games, beating Tauziat

with a backhand lob at match point.

"I wasn't expecting her to have a let-down, but I was hoping she would," Po said. "It's hard when you beat Conchita, and then you have to play ... me."

Garden Party for Martina

NEW YORK — They're giving a going-away Garden party for Martina Navratilova and everybody's invited. Or at least 15 of her nearest competitors and 19,000 of her closest friends.

"I just hope I can still pick up the racket and hit the ball over the net through all the emotion that I am sure I will be feeling," Navratilova said of her opening round match Tuesday in the season-ending and, for her, career-ending Virginia Slims Championships. "Hopefully that won't be the only day that I will be playing here."

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Huber needs no coaching to claim title

By JERRY IANNACCI
Special to the Times

PHILADELPHIA — Since the U.S. Open in August, Anke Huber has lost a coach and won two tournaments, including yesterday's Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Huber, of Germany, defeated Mary Pierce, who lives in France but is American by birth, 6-0, 6-7 (7-4), 7-5 in front of an enthusiastic crowd at the

TENNIS

Va. Slims of Philadelphia

Singles Championship

Anke Huber (6), Germany, def. Mary Pierce (2), France, 6-0, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5.

Doubles Championship

Gigi Fernandez, Aspen, Colo., and Natalia Zvereva (1), Belarus, def. Gabriela Sabatini, Argentina, and Brenda Schultz, Netherlands, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Pennsylvania Convention Center.

The doubles championship went to the top-seeded team of Gigi Fernandez and Natalia Zvereva, who rallied from a set down to defeat Gabriela Sabatini and Brenda Schultz, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

The singles championship was the third of the year for Huber. It also was the third three-set match of the tournament for the 19-year-old, who often has been termed the next Steffi Graf by the always-looking-for-the-next-great-thing tennis press.

"I'm much more confident right now," Huber said of her performance since the Open. "I feel much more comfortable on the court. I'm having fun out there. But I don't know how much longer I can go without a coach. Maybe three or four tournaments is OK, but I don't think I can go a full year without (a coach)."

"In Germany, it's different. People don't really care if you're in the top 10, there are so many good players, Boris (Becker), Michael (Stich), Steffi. The comparisons are normal. People are always looking to compare players."

Huber, the sixth seed, needed only 21 minutes to take the first set. She led 4-0 in the second, and had three match points at 5-3 in the third before disposing of Pierce with a pair of forehand crosscourt winners at 6-5 in the third.

"I played Mary in Filderstadt, and I played well in that match too," said Huber, referring to her 6-4, 6-2 win over Pierce a month ago in Germany. "The first set today was one of my best ever. She didn't know what to do. I didn't make any mistakes."

"I knew she'd play better, and I knew it would be hard for me

to play two sets like this. The second set was like the first, but I got unlucky on a few points and she was hitting the ball so hard. I got a little down when it was 5-4 in the third, and had some double-faults, but I had to put them out of my mind."

Pierce, who was battling flu-like symptoms and a stiff shoulder, won over the crowd with her never-say-die comeback from a love set loss in the first.

Pierce broke Huber's serve to make it 4-5 in the third and got even with one of her two aces of the match. The ace brought a rare show of emotion from the normally stoic No. 2 seed.

"It's not the easiest thing to do to play from behind all day," Pierce said. "She was playing so well in the first set. I had to do something to break her rhythm."

"I thought when I got to five-all in the third, I had a really good chance to win. I saved four match points, and that gave me a boost. It's too bad to lose when you come that far back. I felt better than I did yesterday, but by the end of the third set I felt really tired."

Huber concurred.

Huber and Pierce had very different paths to the tournament final.

Pierce faced only one seeded player — fifth-seed Natalia Zvereva in the semis — on her travels, while Huber faced a virtual who's who of women's tennis en route to the championship.

In the first round, Huber had

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Raymond scratches out three-set victory at Slims

By Cheryl Kehoe
Times Herald Staff

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Two things about Lisa Raymond became evident last night.

For one thing, she's determined to make good in her home town.

And for another, she'll fight, scratch and claw her way out of a hole to do it.

Raymond, a Valley Forge native and graduate of Notre Dame Academy, made her third appearance in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia last night, and gave Sandra Cacic a bitter taste of Philly.

After losing the first set, and letting a four-game edge slip away in the third, Raymond scratched out a 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-5 victory at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Raymond advances to the second round against the winner of tomorrow's match between Jennifer Capriati and

Anke Huber.

"The whole match I didn't feel real confident out there," Raymond said.

Confidence, she said, had little to do with last night's victory.

Raymond fell into a 4-0 hole, allowing Cacic's strength of serves, and her own unforced errors, to stifle her game.

Raymond, however, clawed back, winning two straight games, before Cacic claimed the first set victory.

"She kept me pinned at the baseline," Raymond said. "I didn't feel real solid on my groundstrokes, and you could definitely see it out there. I wasn't really going for my shots like I usually do.

"It was more a matter of just fighting and hanging in there rather than being confident. I really didn't want to lose first round here in my home town. And the

whole match that was going through my head. And it shouldn't have been. I should have just blocked it out. But it was right there."

At the start of the second set, Raymond made her statement. With Cacic holding a one-game edge, Raymond drilled a 93 mph ace to even the count. She took the lead in the seventh game when, after three ads, Raymond broke Cacic for a 4-3 edge.

The breakthrough for Raymond came late in the second set with the score tied at 5-5. With Cacic serving, Raymond broke for the net and sent a forehand winner over to break serve and take a 6-5 lead. Cacic, however, capitalized on two unforced errors from Raymond to force the tiebreaker.

This time, Raymond took advantage of
See **SLIMS** On Page C3

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Slims

Continued from Page C1



Helena S. Quigley/The Times He

Valley Forge's Lisa Raymond currently holds the No. 46 ranking in the world.

Cacic's miscues, and the backing of the crowd in the stands, to send the match into a third set.

"That second set could have gone either way," Raymond said. "I think I just hung in there and fought my way through it."

Raymond wasted little time in securing a 4-0 lead, and the confidence she said was lacking seemed abundant early in the set. But, Raymond opened the door just a little, and Cacic pushed her way in.

"After 4-2 I definitely started getting nervous," Raymond said. "At 4-0 she definitely looked down. If anything, I stopped doing what I did to get to that point. I got real conservative at 4-0."

After Cacic climbed back in the match, she seemed to take back momentum. At 4-4, Cacic held Raymond scoreless, and sent through a passing shot to go up 5-4.

With Cacic serving for the match, Raymond responded drastically. She broke serve,

then fired through an ace (the last of 11) at 92 mph to win the game. With the 12th game at deuce, Raymond got the advantage on a Cacic error, the, after a series of backhand shots, sent over a winner to the deep right-hand corner.

"I was nervous and putting a lot of pressure on myself," Raymond said. "I was tough on myself. Even though she was playing well, I didn't think I should be losing to her."

The return of Jennifer Capriati after a year's absence to the pro tour certainly got the tennis world to stand at attention.

But according to the one-time dynamo, tomorrow night's match with Germany's Huber, who is seeded sixth in the tournament, is only the first step in regaining her enthusiasm.

"I'm not even thinking about winning or losing," she said. "Who the opponent is doesn't really matter. I just want to have fun out there."

Capriati, one of the world's top women's players before she entered a drug rehabilitation center, received a

wild card into the tournament. She said she began her comeback attempt in August, put a pulled muscle sidelined her. With the muscle healed, Capriati is again focusing on her game.

"Gradually my practices became more intense. I really stepped up my workouts the past week.

"I wouldn't say I'm in tip-top shape, but I feel good enough to break the ice."

In early matches yesterday, qualifier Joannetta Kruger disposed of Shaun Stafford, 6-3, 6-3, while Kimberly Po needed three sets to eliminate Alejandra Vento, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5.

Another minor upset occurred when wild card entrant Tu Meilen ousted eighth-seeded Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, 6-1, 6-3.

Raymond will again take to the court tonight, with doubles partner Lindsay Davenport, in the last match of the evening, vs. Vicky Paynter and Karine Quentrec. Their match follows the battle between fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini and Jana Nejedly.

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AP Photo

Jennifer Capriati smiles during a break in practice.

Capriati begins comeback at Slims tonight

The Associated Press

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Jennifer Capriati was all business as she slammed practice balls in preparation for her return to tennis competition after a year off.

Looking strong and bouncing on her toes between volleys, Capriati concentrated on the ball and ignored onlookers and speculation surrounding her presence at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Capriati, 18, would not speak with reporters, but issued a statement saying that although she was not in the best shape of her career, she was ready to play.

She meets No. 6 seed Anke Huber, 19, in a first-round match at the Pennsylvania Convention Center tonight. If she wins, that will lead to a second round showdown with Valley Forge's Lisa Raymond, probably tomorrow.

Huber defeated Martina Navratilova and Mary Pierce last month on her way to a win at the Porsche Grand Prix trophy in Germany.

The match will be Capriati's first appearance in professional tennis since leaving the game and battling a variety of personal problems, including drug abuse. Capriati was cited a year ago for shoplifting, and in May was charged with marijuana possession in a Coral Gables, Fla., hotel room.

She entered a drug rehabilitation program soon afterward.

But Capriati appeared Monday to be focusing on the upcoming match.

"I wouldn't say I'm in tip-top shape, but I feel good enough to break the ice," Capriati said. "I'm not even thinking about winning or losing. Who the opponent is doesn't really matter. I just want to have fun out there."

Capriati battled onto the pro circuit at age 13, only to leave five years later, saying she was burned out and suffering from injuries.

She said she began serious practice in August and had intended to return last month before pulling a muscle.

"In regards to after this tournament and next year I don't know," she said. "I'm just going to take things day by day."

Chanda Rubin overwhelmed seventh seed Amy Frazier 6-1, 6-1 yesterday with sustained power hitting from back court in the first round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Rubin next will face Erika de Lone, who advanced with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Mercedes Paz of Argentina.

NOV 10, 1994

TIMES - HERALD
NORRISTOWN, PA

PM - 30.427

Capriati's return marred by loss

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AP Photo

Conchita Martinez pauses during her loss to Nathalie Tauziat.

Tauziat used an assortment of drop shots and timely aces to overcome Martinez's power. The final three points came with consecutive backhand slices, including two that trickled off the top of the net, to eliminate the defending champion.

"It's my last tournament of the year, and I have nothing to lose," said Tauziat, who is not seeded. "When I play my best, I can beat anybody."

Tauziat won the first set after breaking serve and taking a 4-3 lead. She went ahead 5-3 with an ace and backhand volley and won the set two games later with an overhead smash.

Martinez won the first game but dropped three straight in the second set. Tauziat went ahead 5-3 by winning four straight service points, including two aces, and used two backhand volleys. She held serve for the match.

"I haven't been playing well at the end of the season," said Martinez, who lost in the first round of last month's Nokia Grand Prix. "She played really a good match. Nathalie was tough."

Martinez's loss opens the tournament for No. 2 seed Mary Pierce and No. 3 Lindsay Davenport.

Davenport posted a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Tami Whitlinger-Jones and faces hard-hitting Brenda Schultz in the second round. Schultz's power overwhelmed Pam Shriver en route to a 6-4, 6-0 victory.

Katerina Maleeva also advanced to the second round with a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Zina Garrison-Jackson. Chandra Rubin advanced to the third round with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Erika de Lone.

Jennifer Capriati, appearing to tire in the third set in her return to tennis, lost 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 last night to Anke Huber in the opening round of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Capriati, who spent more than a year away from the women's tour because of burnout, injuries and legal problems, dropped the first four games of the final set to the 19-year-old German, who is ranked 13th in the world. She then held to 4-1 with her first ace of the night, but never threatened.

The 18-year-old Floridian smiled while receiving a warm greeting from the 4,500 fans at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. She wore a blue skirt, white shirt and a baseball cap supporting the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS.

Capriati's groundstrokes were sound in the first two sets. She was able to find corners and hit deep forehands, as is her trademark, and stayed with Huber's power for most of the first set until the German won the final two games.

Capriati, making her first tournament appearance since the 1993 U.S. Open, won the first four games and took the second set.

Huber broke Capriati to draw to 5-3, but Capriati broke back to win the set. At set point, Capriati, now coached by Jose Higueras, came from behind the baseline to reach a drop shot and pulled it past Huber.

Nathalie Tauziat delivered her best performance of the season, beating top-seeded Conchita Martinez 6-4, 6-4 in the first round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

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NOV 11, 1994

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Paul Hawthorne/The Times Her

Gabriela Sabatini follows through on a return of serve during doubles action yesterday.

Schultz, Sabatini advance at Slims

The Associated Press

200 JN
Brenda Schultz, rattling serves of more than 105 mph, defeated Lindsay Davenport 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 yesterday in the second round of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

In the featured match of the evening, Valley Forge's Lisa Raymond and Anke Huber split the first two sets. Raymond won the opening set, 7-5, and then fell in the second, 6-3.

The third set began just before midnight.

Schultz powered her way past the third seed, among the hardest baseline hitters on the women's tour.

"I knew the only way to beat Lindsay was to hit harder than she does," Schultz said. "If she starts hitting hard and cranking it up, she'll hit winners all over the place."

Jennifer Capriati pulled out of doubles competition with a sore

right shoulder following her first singles match in more than a year.

Capriati was to play with Mercedes Paz against Pam Shriver and Elizabeth Smylie in a first-round match. On Wednesday, Capriati lost 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 to Anke Huber.

In another second-round singles match, No. 2 Mary Pierce won 10 of the last 11 games en route to a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Patty Fendick. Pierce will next play 16-year-old newcomer Meilen Tu, who defeated Katerina Maleeva 6-4, 6-3. Tu, a wild-card entry from Northridge, Calif., won for the second time on the tour to advance to the quarterfinals.

No. 4 Gabriela Sabatini got off to a slow start before beating Joanne Kruger 6-4, 6-0. Sabatini will play Chanda Rubin in the quarters.

Schultz, clocked with the hardest serve at 113 mph earlier this year, had two aces in the final game of

the third set to win the match. She won the last three games in the last two sets after Davenport showed effective ground strokes in winning the first set.

Schultz had consecutive aces early in the third set, prompting the frustrated Davenport to scream, "Get me out of here!" The 18-year-old Californian took a 3-2 lead in the third, but was broken at 4-4 before Schultz served for the match.

"You try to weather the storm," Davenport said. "You just try to get balls back in. I couldn't do that."

Schultz, 23, of the Netherlands, also got easy points when Davenport made returns. Schultz used her powerful forehand down the line after being set up by Davenport's weak lobbs.

"It was hurting my wrist when I

See **SLIMS** On Page C4M

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Slims

Continued from Page C1

touched it," Davenport said. "The ball would bounce off my racket, and my hand would just bend back."

Schultz will play fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva in the next round. Zvereva defeated Julie Halard 6-1, 6-4 yesterday.

Fendick had a 3-2 lead in the first set before Pierce won four straight games. Pierce then attacked Fendick's serve in the second set and won the final point with a powerful backhand down the line.

Pierce, ranked fifth in the world, remains the highest seed in the tournament after top-seeded Conchita Martinez was knocked out in the first round.

Nathalie Tauziat, who beat Martinez in her first match, was eliminated by Kimberly Po 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 less than 18 hours after her upset victory. Po won the final two

games, beating Tauziat with a backhand lob at match point.

"I wasn't expecting her to have a letdown, but I was hoping she would," Po said. "It's hard when you beat Conchita, and then you have to play ... me."

• • •

Martina Navratilova will open the last tournament of her career against Sabatini in the \$3.5 million Virginia Slims Championship in New York.

Navratilova, the most successful tennis player in history, is retiring after the tournament, which marks the final stop on the 1994 women's tour. The 38-year-old has won 167 singles titles and earned more than \$20.5 million since turning pro in 1973.

Sabatini, who reached the quarterfinals of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia yesterday, said she is looking forward to playing against Navratilova in the round-robin tournament.

"I'm excited," Sabatini said. "I love to play against Martina, and it's going to be very special because it's her last tournament. I want to win, too. I hope we can play our best and make it a good match."

Navratilova won 18 grand slam titles, including nine Wimbledons, in singles, 31 in doubles and six in mixed doubles. Navratilova decided earlier this season that this would be her last on tour.

She is seeded sixth in the Virginia Slims Championships, which runs from Monday to Nov. 20. The tournament includes the top 16 players in the world.

The other first-round matches includes Steffi Graf vs. Brenda Schultz; Amanda Coetzer vs. Mary Pierce; Jana Novotna vs. Iva Majoli; Anke Huber vs. Lindsay Davenport; Kimiko Date vs. Magdalena Maleeva; Natalia Zvereva vs. Conchita Martinez, and Julie Halard vs. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

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Sore shoulder slows Capriati's comeback

By Cheryl Kehoe
Times Herald Staff

200JN
The biggest media draw to hit Philadelphia since the 1993 World Series is officially a bust.

Jennifer Capriati, making her comeback to the professional tour, pulled out of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia due to a sore right shoulder.

Capriati, who was out of action for more than a year after checking herself into a drug rehabilitation center, drew international attention when she announced she would make her comeback at the Philly Slims.

The media went haywire, and tournament officials, it was reported, had to come up with 300 additional press credentials to satisfy the onslaught of journalists and photographers.

And in one short night, the comeback was over.

Capriati, who received a wild card bid into the tournament, fell to sixth-seeded Anke Huber in the first round, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1. All was not lost, however, for fans and media. Capriati was scheduled with partner Mercedes Paz for a doubles match against Pam Shriver and

Virginia Slims Notebook

Elizabeth Smylie. Capriati's withdrawal yesterday, however, put an end to the hype.

It wasn't known last night how long the sore shoulder, which Capriati claims was injured in her match with Hanker, will sideline her. It's also not known when she plans to return to the tour again.

In earlier matches yesterday, Kimberly Po defeated Nathalie Tauziat, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5. Mary Pierce, the tournament's second seed, had little trouble getting by Patty Fendick, 6-3, 6-1, in second-round action.

After the stunning elimination of top-seeded Conchita Martinez Wednesday, yesterday's upset special seems trivial. Brenda Schultz, the hard-serving amazon from the Netherlands, used three sets to dispose of third-seeded Lindsay Davenport, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

In Schultz's singles win yesterday, she reeled off 11 aces, with five double faults, and was 28-38 on points won on first serves.

Schultz's doubles partner, Gabriela Sabatini (No. 4 seed) easily handled Joenette Kruger, 6-4, 6-0, while Meilen Tu, who ousted eighth-seeded Amanda Coetzer in the first round, advanced to the quarterfinals against Pierce with a 6-4, 7-5 win over Katerina Maleeva yesterday.

Schultz and Sabatini continued their winning ways last night when the outlasted Patty Fendick and Meredith McGrath, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

As usual, Schultz leads the field in rapid-fire serving. The 6-foot-2, 170-pound right-hander fired off a 113 mph serve. The second-fastest serve, at 102 mph, came from Julie Halard. Valley Forge's Lisa Raymond, at 5-5, 122 pounds, is holding her own against the big guns. Along with Martina and Natalia Zvereva (5-8, 138 lbs.), Raymond's top serve was 97 mph going into last night.

The winner of the tournament stands to earn \$150,000, while the runner-up will net \$67,500. For the third and fourth-place finishers — \$33,750, while fifth through eighth will receive \$16,950 for their efforts.

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TIMES - HERALD
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PM - 30,427



Paul Hawthorne/The Times Herald

Brenda Schultz reaches for a forehand return during doubles action at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

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1. f2

Pierce too much for Tu in Slims

The Associated Press

Second-seeded Mary Pierce jumped to big leads in the each set yesterday and beat newcomer Meilen Tu 6-2, 6-4 to reach the semifinals of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Pierce, fighting a head cold, surrendered just three points in the first three games of the first set and just four in the first three games of the second set.

"I feel I'm playing well considering how I feel," Pierce said. "It's always tough when you're not feeling well because it's hard to stay focused, and you get tired more easily."

Also advancing to the semifinals were No. 5 Natalia Zvereva, who beat Brenda Schultz 6-1, 7-6, and Anke Huber, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Kimberly Po.

Tu, ranked 604th in the world, broke Pierce's serve to draw within 5-4 in the second set, but Pierce broke back with a powerful backhand at match point. Pierce has lost just 11 games in her first three matches.

The 16-year-old Tu, of Northridge, Calif., was a wild-card entrant and had played just 10 professional matches before facing the No. 5 women's player. It was the second time Tu reached the quarterfinals of a tournament.

"It was just another match — no big deal," Tu said. "If you start thinking you can't play with those players, it can get a little overwhelming. I know I can play with them."

Pierce, the top remaining seed

in the tournament, went up 3-0 in the first set before Tu drew within 3-2. Pierce capitalized when Tu double-faulted on her next two service games.

Pierce next will play Zvereva, who had few problems with Schultz's powerful serve in the first set and won five of the first six points in a second-set tiebreaker.

Zvereva, who has not lost a set in the tournament, broke Schultz twice in the first set. The two stayed on serve in the second until Schultz hit into the net to give Zvereva a 3-1 lead in the tiebreaker.

Schultz, the most powerful server on the women's tour, had 12 aces but double-faulted at match point. Zvereva won the tiebreaker 7-4.

Huber used her relentless groundstrokes and took advantage of Po's sloppiness. Huber grabbed a 4-1 lead with a forehand smash in the second set. Three games later, she broke Po's serve for the victory.

"She made a lot of easy mistakes," Huber said. "I thought after the first set, I could win each game. I was confident I would win the match."

Huber has had perhaps the toughest route into the semifinals. She had to overcome the return of Jennifer Capriati in the first round, was stretched to three sets by local star Lisa Raymond of Valley Forge in a match that ended after midnight and returned to beat Po this afternoon.



AP Photo

2005N
Mary Pierce of France returns a shot to Meilen Tu during their quarterfinal match at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Convention Center yesterday. Pierce, the tournament's second seed, defeated Tu, 6-2, 6-4 to advance to the semifinals. For story see page C3. K

MUTUAL
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NOV 12, 1994

TIMES - HERALD
NORRISTOWN, PA

PM - 30,427



Gabriela Sabatini serves to Anke Huber yesterday at the Convention Center, during Huber's 6-7, 6-1, 6-4 semifinal win yesterday.

Huber, Pierce reach championship round

2005N

Times staff and wire reports

PHILADELPHIA — It will be a surprising but intriguing final to the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia Tournament today.

Anke Huber and Mary Pierce posted impressive victories yesterday to reach the final.

Huber shook off a disappointing first set before beating Gabriela Sabatini 6-7 (11-13), 6-1, 6-4, while Pierce defeated fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva 6-3, 6-3.

Huber gained momentum by winning the first three games of the second set and took advantage of a tired Sabatini in the third. The 19-year-old German might have had an easier time had she been able to capitalize on Sabatini's nine double-faults in the first set.

"I had a lot of chances before the tiebreaker," Huber said. "I just tried to forget everything and play my game. I played a little better than in the first set, and it worked out."

Sabatini broke Huber's serve to pull within 3-3 in the third set, but Huber broke back in the next game and served for the match three games later. She took match point when Sabatini hit a backhand return wide.

The sixth-seeded Huber ran Sabatini along the baseline and turned her relentless powerful forehands into winners. Sabatini, seeded fourth, was unable to regain momentum in the final two sets.

"I didn't think I was in control of the match at any moment," Sabatini said. "I was just defending myself and just hitting it back and not guiding the ball. ... She was just hitting everything."

Huber has had perhaps the most difficult route to the final.

TENNIS

Today on TV

■ Channel 3: Slims of Philly final (tape delay), 4:30 p.m.

She was stretched to three sets in Jennifer Capriati's return match in the first round and needed three sets to beat local favorite Lisa Raymond. She then beat Kimberly Po in straight sets before playing Sabatini.

Huber, ranked 13th in the world, is looking for her third tournament title this year.

"I'm a little more confident at the moment," Huber said.

2042835828

Capriati just wants to have fun at Slims

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A relaxed but unsmiling Jennifer Capriati returned quietly to a tournament practice court yesterday, concentrating more on her forehand than the people watching her.

The 18-year-old who lost interest in tennis more than a year ago was all business at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, ignoring a crowd watching her as she returned balls to new coach Jose Higueras.

Capriati has a first-round match tomorrow at 7 p.m. against No. 6 seed Anke Huber in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. It is her first appearance in professional tennis since leaving the game and battling a host of personal problems, including drug addiction.

But yesterday Capriati looked like she wanted to play again. She returned serves with powerful forehands for more than 30 minutes without a break, stopping occasionally to wipe her forehead.

"I wouldn't say I'm in tip-top shape, but I feel good enough to break the ice," Capriati said in a five-paragraph statement, declining interviews. "I'm not even thinking about winning or losing. Who the opponent is doesn't really matter. I just want to have fun out there."

Capriati fought her way into the pros at age 13 before leaving the game, citing burnout and injuries. A year ago she was arrested for shoplifting and last May was charged with marijuana possession at a hotel in Coral Gables, Fla. She entered a drug rehabilitation center soon afterward.

"In regards to after this tournament and next year I don't know," she said. "I'm just going to take things day by day."

Her colleagues welcomed her return.

"I think it's great, she's always been great for tennis," said Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, a 6-1, 6-3 loser to Meilen Tu in the first round. "She's been pretty responsible, from what we hear on the courts, the last few months."

Capriati has a tough first-round opponent in Huber. The 19-year-old defeated Martina Navratilova and Mary Pierce last month on her way to winning the Porsche Grand Prix in Germany.



Capriati

She could face Lisa Raymond in the second round and top seed Conchita Martinez in the quarterfinals.

Tu, a 16-year-old high school student from Northridge, Calif., upset Coetzer, seeded No. 8 and ranked No. 16 in the world. Last year the South African won tournaments in Australia and Japan, but was able to win only one service game in this match — the fourth game of the second set.

A long deuce battle ensued in the ninth game of the second set between the two, each using a two-handed backhand. Tu closed the match when Coetzer hit a lob out of court.

"I knew if I played well, I'd have a chance," Tu said. "I knew she was a little bit nervous because I came out playing pretty well. I was attacking right away. I didn't give her any errors."

Said Coetzer: "I felt in the second set I could play back."

No. 2 seed Mary Pierce advanced to the second round with a 6-0, 6-1 rout of Tatiana Ignatiava of Belarussie, Russia.

Lisa Raymond of Wayne, Pa., rallied past Sandra Cacic of Bradenton, Fla., 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-5. ...

Retired legend Chris Evert says she isn't nervous about her return to tennis this week — as a broadcaster — at the Virginia Slims.

"Let me put it in a gentle way," Evert told The Philadelphia Inquirer. "If I were doing the finals at Wimbledon, I think I'd be panicking. This is a big tournament, but the eyes of the world won't be watching."

Evert, who turns 40 next month, will do color commentary for KYW-TV's telecast of the Slims final Sunday, assisting KYW sportscaster Lou Tilley. The match will air locally on a tape-delayed basis after the NFL game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Cleveland Browns.

Philly Slims today

■ **WHAT:** the second day of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tennis tournament.

■ **WHERE:** the new Pennsylvania Convention Center adjacent to the Reading Terminal, 1101 Market.

■ **HOW MUCH:** tickets are \$12-\$35. Call 654-7700.

■ **WHO? WHEN?:** Day session starting at 9 a.m.: Fendek vs. Werdel; followed by McNeil vs. DeLone, Rubin vs. Frazier, Zvereva vs. McGrath and Harvey-Wilde vs. Halard; then doubles Maleeva-White vs. Martinez-Tarabini followed by Halard-Tauziat vs. Coetzer-Graham.

■ **Night session** (not before 7 p.m.): Sabatini vs. Nejedly; followed by Davenport vs. Raymond and Paynter vs. Quentrec.

MUTUAL
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NOV 8, 1994

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COURIER-TIMES
LEVITTOWN, PA

SUN - 71.497

DLY - 64.375

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BUCKS COUNTY
COURIER-TIMES
LEVITTOWN, PA

SUN - 71,497
DLY - 64,375
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Associated Press

Jennifer Capriati makes her comeback tonight.

Capriati working on return game

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Tonight, Jennifer Capriati plays her first match in more than a year when she faces sixth-seeded Anke Huber of Germany. But Capriati's not the only story in the first round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tournament.

Capriati could face Wayne's Lisa Raymond in the second round and top seed Conchita Martinez in the quarterfinals.

Top seed and defending champion Conchita Martinez of Spain, the No. 3-ranked player in the world, will begin her defense of the as well against Nathalie Tauziat of France.

In action yesterday, Chanda Rubin overwhelmed seventh seed Amy Frazier 6-1, 6-1 with sustained power hitting from back court.

Frazier was unable to cope with the speed and power of Rubin's driving in the 43-minute match.

No. 4 Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina overcame 11 double-faults to defeat Jana Nejedly of Canada 6-4, 6-1 in a night match.

Nejedly broke for a 3-1 first-set lead but Sabatini won seven straight games to move from a 4-3 deficit to a 4-0 lead in the second set.

"Well, I've been trying a new service and I have been getting greater speed from it," Sabatini said of her serving problems.

In other matches, fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva of Belarus defeated Meredith McGrath 6-4, 6-4; Patty Fendick beat Marianne Werdel 6-2, 6-4; and Julie Halard of France prevailed over Linda Harvey-Wild 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.



Jennifer Capriati

Philly Slims today

■ **WHAT:** Day Three of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tennis tournament.

■ **WHERE:** the new Pennsylvania Convention Center adjacent to the Reading Terminal, 1101 Market.

■ **HOW MUCH:** tickets are \$12-\$35. Call 654-7700.

■ **WHO? WHEN?:** Day session starting at 9 a.m.: Jill Hetherington-Shaun Stafford vs. team to be determined; followed by Erica DeLone vs. Chanda Rubin; Brenda Schultz vs. Pam Shriver, Conchita Martinez vs. Natalie Tauziat, Tami Whitlinger-Jones vs. Lindsay Davenport, Katarina Maleeva vs. Zina Garrison-Jackson, and again in doubles, Marianne Werdel-Whitlinger-Jones vs. Sabatini-Schultz.

■ **Night session** (not before 7 p.m.): Jennifer Capriati vs. Anke Huber.

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 10, 1994

BUCKS COUNTY
COURIER-TIMES
LEVITTOWN, PA

SUN - 71.497

DLY - 64.375

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Associated Press

Conchita Martinez returns shot in last night's match against Nathalie Tauziat.

Martinez ousted, Capriati defeated

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Nathalie Tauziat delivered her best performance of the season yesterday, beating top-seeded Conchita Martinez 6-4, 6-4 in the first round of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia while Jennifer Capriati lost in her first come-back match.

Tauziat used an assortment of drop shots and timely aces to overcome Martinez's power. The final three points came with consecutive backhand slices, including two that trickled off the top of the net, to eliminate the defending champion.

"It's my last tournament of the year and I have nothing to lose," said Tauziat, who is not seeded. "When I play my best, I can beat anybody."

Also bounced out of the tournament in a first-round match was Capriati, who was making her first appearance on a tennis court since the 1993 U.S. Open. Capriati fell to Germany's Anke Huber 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

Tauziat won the first set after breaking serve and taking a 4-3 lead. She went ahead 5-3 with an ace and backhand volley and won the set two games later with an overhead smash.

Martinez won the first game but dropped three straight in the second set. Tauziat went ahead 5-3 by winning four straight service points, including two aces, and used two backhand volleys. She held serve for the match.

"I haven't been playing well at the end of the season," said Martinez, who lost in the first round of last month's Nokia Grand Prix. "She played really a good match. Nathalie was tough."

Capriati, who spent more than a year away from the women's tour because of burnout, injuries and legal problems, dropped the first four games of the final set to the sixth-seeded Huber, who is ranked 13th in the world. She finally held serve with her first ace of the night, drawing within 4-1, but never threatened.

Martinez's loss opens the tournament for No. 2 seed Mary Pierce and No. 3 Lindsay Davenport.

Philly Slims today

■ **WHAT:** Day Four of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tennis tournament.

■ **WHERE:** The new Pennsylvania Convention Center adjacent to the Reading Terminal, 1101 Market.

■ **HOW MUCH:** Tickets are \$12-\$35. Call 654-7700.

■ **WHEN:** Day session starts at 9 a.m. Night session begins no early than 7 p.m.

2042835831

Davenport upset, Capriati defaults

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Brenda Schultz, rattling serves of more than 105 mph, defeated Lindsay Davenport 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 yesterday in the second round of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Schultz powered her way past the third seed, among the hardest baseline hitters on the women's tour.

"I knew the only way to beat Lindsay was to hit harder than she does," Schultz said. "If she starts hitting hard and cranking it up, she'll hit winners all over the place."

Jennifer Capriati pulled out of

doubles competition after sustaining a sore right shoulder during her first singles match in more than a year.

Capriati was to play with Mercedes Paz against Pam Shriver and Elizabeth Smylie in a first-round match. On Wednesday, Capriati lost 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 to Anke Huber.

In other second-round singles matches, No. 2 seed Mary Pierce struggled early before winning 10 of the last 11 games en route to a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Patty Fendick.

Pierce will next play 16-year-old newcomer Meilen Tu, who de-

feated Katerina Maleeva 6-4, 6-3. Tu, a wild-card entry from Northridge, Calif., won for the second time on the tour to advance to the quarterfinals.

No. 4 Gabriela Sabatini got off to a slow start before beating Jo-anette Kruger, 6-4, 6-0. Sabatini will play Chanda Rubin in the quarters.

Schultz, clocked with the hardest serve at 113 mph earlier this year, hit two aces in the final game of the third set to win the match. She won the last three games in the last two sets, after Davenport showed effective groundstrokes in winning the first set.

Schultz hit consecutive aces early in the third set, prompting a frustrated Davenport to scream, "Get me out of here." The 18-year-old Californian took a 3-2 lead in the third but was broken at 4-4 before Schultz served for the match.

Schultz will play fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva in the next round. Zvereva defeated Julie Halard, 6-1, 6-4 yesterday.

Nathalie Tuziat, who beat Martinez in her first match, was eliminated by Kimberly Po 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 less than 18 hours after her upset victory. Po won the final two games and beat Tuziat with a backhand lob at match point.



Associated Press

Mary Pierce (right) and Gabriela Sabatini advance at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia, while Lindsay Davenport is knocked out and Jennifer Capriati bows out.

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NOV 11, 1994

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DLY - 64.375

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NOV 14, 1994

BUCKS COUNTY
COURIER-TIMES
LEVITTOWN, PA

SUN - 71.497

DLY - 64.375

B/J

2

Huber outlasts Pierce

PHILADELPHIA (AP) —
Anke Huber played the best set
of her career yesterday and hung
on to defeat Mary Pierce 6-0, 6-7
(4-7), 7-5 for the championship
of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of
Philadelphia.

Huber nearly blew a 4-0 lead
in the third set before settling
down for her third victory of the
season. The 19-year-old German
won the final two games in the
third set and broke Pierce's serve
with a forehand to win the tour-
nament.

"She pushed me," Huber said.
"She was always there, and she
never gave up. I just tried to
play my game, and it worked
out."

Huber, who earned \$150,000,
has won two tournaments and is
ranked 13th in the world despite
not having a coach since Septem-
ber. She also beat Pierce in the
Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in
Germany last month.

Huber had the most difficult
route to the final. She had three-
set victories over Jennifer Cap-
riati and Lisa Raymond, beat
Kimberly Po in two sets and Ga-
briela Sabatini in three sets be-
fore facing the second-seeded
Pierce.

"I'm much more comfortable
on the court, and I think I have
much more fun out there," Huber
said. "I just take it more easy,
and I relax more on the court."

Pierce, ranked fifth, earned
\$67,500 for second place. She is
winless in five finals this year,
and has not beaten Huber in
three career matches.



Associated Press

Anke Huber raises her arms in
victory after beating Mary Pierce.

2042835833

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE
NOV 9, 1994

DAILY / SUNDAY
LOCAL NEWS
WEST CHESTER, PA
PM - 28,733
SUN - 35,677

Frazier is first upset victim at Philly Slims

200JN
PHILADELPHIA (AP) —
Chanda Rubin, hitting powerfully
from the backcourt, upset No. 7
seed Amy Frazier 6-1, 6-1 Tuesday
in the first round of the Virginia
Slims of Philadelphia.

No. 4 Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina overcame 11 double-faults to defeat Jana Nedjedly of Canada 6-4, 6-1 in a night match.

On Wednesday night, Jennifer Capriati will play her first match in more than a year when she faces No. 6 Anke Huber of Germany. Top seed and defending champion Conchita Martinez of Spain will begin her defense of the title against Nathalie Tauziat of France.

Frazier was unable to cope with the speed and power of Rubin's driving shots in the 43-minute match. Rubin won the first set on the second set point on a netted shot by Frazier.

Frazier set up match point at 5-1 in the second set by double-faulting. Rubin then ended the match with a swift cross-court passing shot from her two-handed backhand.

Rubin next will face Erika de Lone, who advanced with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Mercedes Paz of Argentina. Paz was a replacement for Lori McNeil, who withdrew from

the tournament in the morning because of tendinitis in her right shoulder.

Nedjedly broke for a 3-1 first-set lead but Sabatini won seven straight games to move from a 4-3 deficit to a 4-0 lead in the second set. Nedjeley lost match point by netting a backhand volley.

"Well, I've been trying a new service and I have been getting greater speed from it," Sabatini said of her serving problems.

"I don't think I was playing bad, but she was playing very good and she was very fast, and I had to play very well to beat her."

In other matches, No. 5 Natalia Zvereva of Belarus defeated Meredith McGrath 6-4, 6-4; Patty Fendick beat Marianne Werdel 6-2, 6-4; and Julie Halard of France prevailed over Linda Harvey-Wild 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Fendick won the first set with a passing shot for a break. Werdel fought off three match points in the second set, then yielded on the fourth match point.

McGrath lost her service in the 10th game of the second set, losing the match on the second match-point with a cross-court backhand drive over the baseline.

2042835834

DAILY / SUNDAY
LOCAL NEWS
WEST CHESTER, PA

PM - 28.733
SUN - 35.677
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Pierce, Huber in the finals

2005N
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Anke Huber and Mary Pierce posted impressive victories Saturday to reach the final of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

Huber shook off a disappointing first set before beating Gabriela Sabatini 6-7 (11-13), 6-1, 6-4, while Pierce defeated fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva 6-3, 6-3.

Huber gained momentum by winning the first three games of the second set and took advantage of a tired Sabatini in the third. The 19-year-old German might have had an easier time had she been able to capitalize on Sabatini's nine double-faults in the first set.

"I had a lot of chances before the tiebreaker," Huber said. "I just tried to forget everything and play my game. I played a little better than in the first set, and it worked out."

Sabatini broke Huber's serve to pull within 3-3 in the third set, but Huber broke back in the next game and served for the match three games later. She took match point when Sabatini hit a backhand return wide.

The sixth-seeded Huber ran Sabatini along the baseline and turned her relentless powerful forehands into winners. Sabatini, seeded fourth, was unable to regain momentum in the final two sets.

"I didn't think I was in control of the match at any moment," Sabatini said. "I was just defending myself and just hitting it back and not guiding the ball. ... She was just hitting everything."

Huber has had perhaps the most difficult route to the final. She was stretched to three sets in Jennifer Capriati's return match in the first round and needed three sets to beat local favorite Lisa Raymond. She then beat Kimberly Po in straight sets before playing Sabatini.

Huber, ranked 13th in the world, is looking for her third tournament title this year.

"I'm a little more confident at the moment," Huber said. "I won a lot of close matches. I think I already played well. I'm playing much more aggressive now and much better."

Sabatini, who was looking for her first tournament championship in more than two years, will play Martina Navratilova on Tuesday in the first round of the season-ending Virginia Slims Championships in New York. The tournament will be Navratilova's last before retiring.

Huber defeated Pierce in straight sets in the final of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in Filderstadt, Germany, last month.

"It's going to be tough," Huber said. "She's a very good player, and she can play unbelievably good."

Pierce, ranked fifth in the world, has not lost a set in the tournament. But she has not won in her four previous finals this season.

Pierce never allowed Zvereva to get into rhythm and had several easy points at the net. Pierce broke Zvereva's serve at love to take a 5-3 lead and allowed just one point in the final two games to win the first set.

She then won the final four games in the second set and broke Zvereva's serve with a powerful forehand at match point.

"It's important to be mentally patient with Natalia," Pierce said. "Game-wise, you have to take the initiative and be very aggressive — not rally with her and give her a chance to do her shots."

2042835835

Huber defeats Pierce to grab Philly Slims title

200JN
By BRUCE MOWDAY
Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Anke Huber overcame all of the favorites, including the sentimental ones, to win the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tennis tournament.

Huber defeated the second-seeded player in the tournament, Mary Pierce, in the finals by scores of 6-0, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5 on Sunday.

Huber, the sixth seed, needed two hours and eight minutes to defeat Pierce and take the \$150,000 winner's check home to Germany.

During the week-long tournament at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Huber knocked off Jennifer Capriati, who was making her comeback after a 15-month layoff because of personal problems, and Wayne's Lisa Raymond.

Both were sentimental favorites of the crowd.

Also, Huber, defeated Gabriela

Sabatini, the tournament's fourth seed, in the semi-finals on Saturday.

"I'm really tired now," Huber said after the marathon finals. "I'm happy it is over."

After the first eight games of the match, it looked like Huber would take home the winner's check without breaking a sweat. She breezed to a 6-0 first set win in just 21 minutes.

Huber won the first two games of the second set and Pierce seemed doomed. But Huber's first serve deteriorated and Pierce started mixing up her shots to throw Huber off balance.

"She was just playing so well," Pierce said of Huber's fast start. "It was a little bit embarrassing in the beginning, but there was not much I could do."

"One of my best," Huber said of her first set.

See HUBER, Page B3



Associated Press
Anke Huber sends a backhand return to Mary Pierce during the final match of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tournament on Sunday.

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE
NOV 14, 1994
DAILY / SUNDAY
LOCAL NEWS
WEST CHESTER, PA
PM - 28,733
SUN - 35,677
CH

2042835836

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Huber

(From Page B1)

In the first set, Huber won 10 of 11 of her first serves and made only one double fault. And she had only nine second serves. But in the second set, Huber missed 24 of her first serves.

A double fault by Huber in the eighth game of the second set cost the champion a game and evened the set at four games each. Each player held serve and in the tiebreaker, Huber recorded another double fault as Pierce prevailed.

The third set began the same way as the first as Huber captured the first four games and again seemed in total control of the match. But once again her serve faltered and Pierce stormed back to tie the set at five games each.

And during that run Pierce on three occasions won points that would have given Huber the championship if she had lost.

Huber had some trouble with her serve in the 11th game of the third set, but she managed to hold service. Huber then broke Pierce's serve to gain the championship.

"She pushed me," Huber said. "She was always there, and she never gave up. I just tried to play my game, and it worked out."

Pierce's strong returns, Huber said, caused her to take some chances with her serves.

Pierce said Huber never gave her a

chance to attack as Huber kept hitting deep shots. Huber's forehand was devastating, especially early in the match.

"She is such a fighter," Pierce said. "I just made too many mistakes."

NOTES: Pierce, 19, of France is the fifth-ranked player in the world while Huber is number 13... Pierce took home \$67,500 out of the \$750,000 in prize money... Huber said it was not easy playing Capriati in her comeback match and that her match with Raymond was one of the toughest of the tournament since Raymond won the first set and took her to a tiebreaker in the second...

The last time Huber and Pierce played it was also a final. In Filderstadt, Germany, Huber won 6-4, 6-2. Also, Huber won their other meeting in three sets in 1993... This was Huber's first tournament in Philadelphia... Pierce and Huber are scheduled to play in this week's Virginia Slims championship in New York City... In the doubles championship, the top-ranked women's doubles team in the world, Gigi Fernandez and Natalia Zvereva, defeated Sabatini and Brenda Schultz by scores of 2-6, 6-4, 6-2... Fernandez and Zvereva defeated Raymond and her partner, Lindsay Davenport, in the semi-finals on Saturday... The attendance at the tournament was 43,208 for the week and 4,223 for Sunday.

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Capriati returns to court

■ The teenage player who left the game for more than a year to deal with drug addiction and other problems will play Wednesday in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

200JN

PHILADELPHIA — A relaxed but unsmiling Jennifer Capriati returned quietly to a tournament practice court Monday, concentrating more on her forehand than the people watching her.

The 18-year-old who lost interest in tennis more than a year ago was all business at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, ignoring a crowd watching her as she returned balls to new coach José Higuera.

Capriati has a first-round match Wednesday night (7 p.m.) against No. 6 seed Anke Huber in the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia. It is her first appearance in professional tennis since leaving the game and battling a host of personal problems, including drug addiction.

But Monday Capriati looked like she wanted to play again. She returned serves with powerful forehands for more than 30 minutes without a break, stopping occasionally to wipe her forehead.

"I wouldn't say I'm in tip-top shape, but I feel good enough to break the ice," Capriati said in a five-paragraph statement, declining interviews. "I'm not even thinking about winning or losing. Who the opponent is doesn't really matter. I just want to have fun out there."

Capriati fought her way into the pros at age 13 before leaving the game, citing burnout and injuries. A year ago she was arrested for shoplifting and last May was charged with marijuana possession at a hotel in Coral Gables, Fla. She entered a drug rehabilitation center soon afterward.

MUTUAL
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

NOV 8, 1994

THE PRESS
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ

AM - 76,000

SUN - 71,000

RT

21



Associated Press photo

Jennifer Capriati was charged last May with marijuana possession.

2042835838



Germany's Anke Huber uses a two-hand backhand to return a shot to Mary Pierce yesterday in her 6-0, 6-7, 7-5 victory in the finals of the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia.

to overcome all the hype of Jennifer Capriati's return to competition in a 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 win. Then, it was hometown favorite Lisa Raymond in the second round. Huber needed a third set tiebreaker to get by Raymond.

In the quarters, Huber got a reprieve from the spotlight in that she faced unseeded Kimberly Po. After a straight set victory over Po, the eventual champ had to defeat number four seed Gabriela Sabatini in the semis.

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